
CHILDREN OF THE WHALES
17
ABI UMEDA



Story and Art by Abi Umeda

Volume

17

On the Mud Whale



Ouni
(Marked, 16 years old)

A very powerful thymia user who possesses the strength of a daimona. He was being held by Orca but Chakuro and the others rescue him.



Lykos
(Marked, 14 years old)

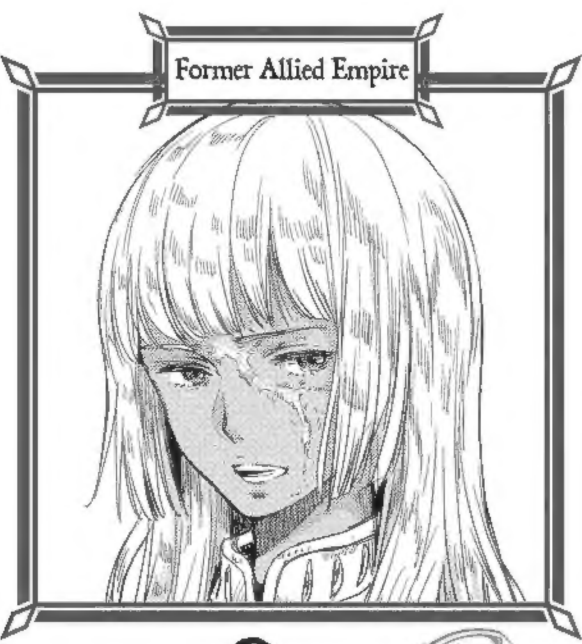
A girl from the Allied Empire who comes aboard the Mud Whale. She is captured by Orca but is saved by Chakuro and others.



Chakuro
(Marked, 14 years old)

The young archivist of the Mud Whale. He sneaks onto Karcharías to save Lykos and Ouni. He and Orca have a confrontation.

Former Allied Empire



Orca
(Marked)

A powerful thymia user and Lykos's brother. He has seized the battleship Karcharías and declared his independence from the empire.



Shuan
(Marked, 26 years old)

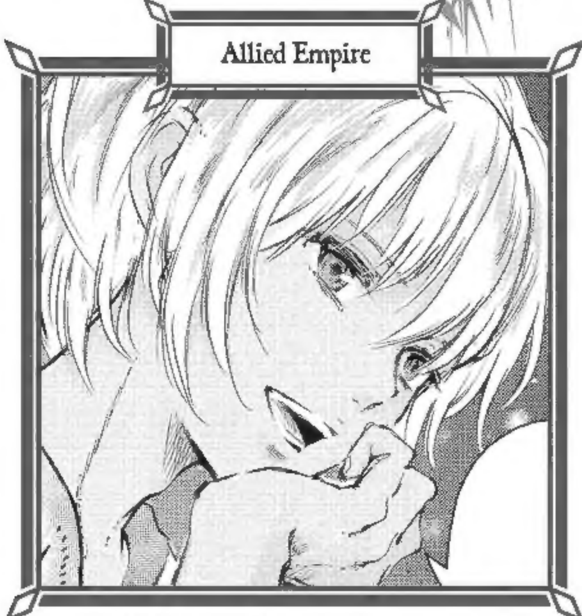
Former commander of the Vigilante Corps. He accompanies Suou to Karcharías as his bodyguard after Suou asks him for help.



Suou
(Unmarked, 17 years old)

Mayor of the Mud Whale. He secretly goes to Karcharías to rescue his friends and attempts to negotiate with Orca.

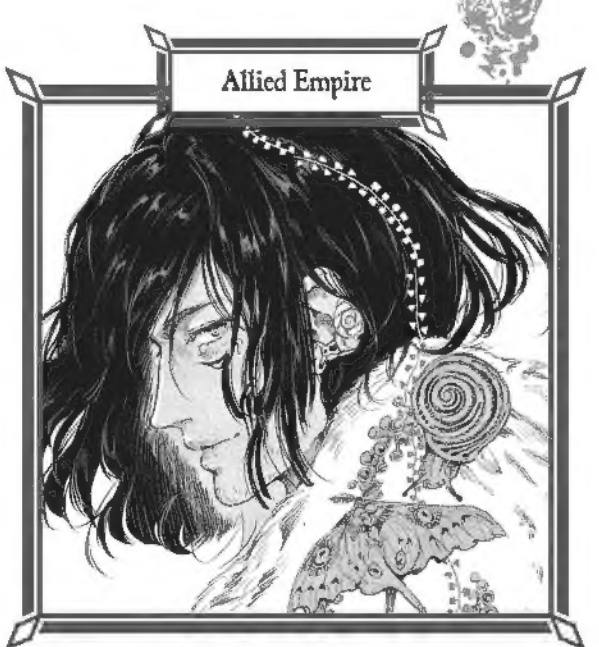
Allied Empire



The Emperor

The most powerful man in the empire bears an uncanny resemblance to Chakuro. He seeks Falāina and plans to crush Orca's insurrection.

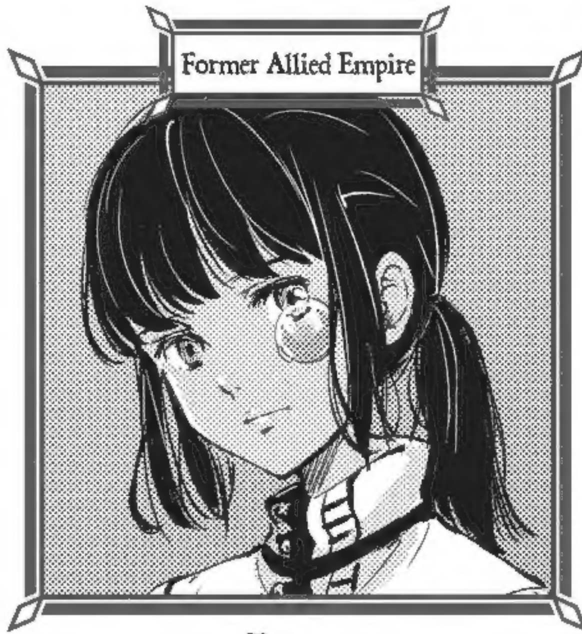
Allied Empire



Salinkári

Commander of the battleship Geráki. He brainwashed Orca when he was younger and made him destroy the island of Kítrino.

Former Allied Empire

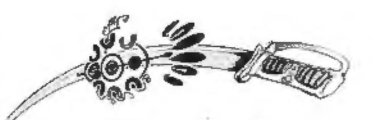


Itía

The archivist on the battleship Skyros before it sank. Although she is Orca's wife, she sympathizes with Chakuro and agrees to help him.



Glossary of the Sea of Sand



The Mud Whale — A huge, drifting island-ship. Those in the empire who resisted giving up their emotions were exiled here, along with all their descendants.

Thymia — Telekinetic power derived from emotions.

The Marked — The 90 percent of the Mud Whale population who are thymia users. They are all short-lived.

The Unmarked — The members of the Mud Whale population who cannot use thymia. Unlike the Marked, they are long-lived.

Nous — A unique organism that obtains energy from peoples' emotions and gives people the power of thymia in return.

Nous Fálaina — A Nous that dwells deep within the Belly of the Mud Whale. Unlike other Nouses, it consumes the life force of humans rather than their emotions.

The Allied Empire — A large nation on the Sea of Sand that controls its citizenry through the Nouses and their absorption of emotions.

Daímonas — A legend from the empire. A being said to be able to destroy a Nous.



A Record of the Mud Whale and the Sea of Sand



Year 93 of the Sand Exile.

The Mud Whale drifts endlessly through the Sea of Sand, home to about 500 people who know nothing of the outside world.

Under the influence of Orca's sasa, Chakuro and the others have a vision the truth buried in the God of Death's heart. Chakuro is able to persuade Orca to come to the Mud Whale, where he protects the island from the battleship Geráki's attack and confronts Salinkári.

At the same time, a mysterious predator has been set loose from the battleship Geráki to menace the Mud Whale and turn its citizens into zombies one by one!

"The Mud Whale was our entire world."



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Chapter 69
A Story About Hearts


CHAKURO!
UHN!
KRASSH
KSSH


I CAN SEE THE MUD WHALE...
THE MUD WHALE...
WE HAVE TO PROTECT IT!


PROTECT IT.
HAVE TO PROTECT...
KRASH




CHAKURO!
YOU'RE FROM THE EMPIRE.
LET GO!
YANK

CHAKURO.

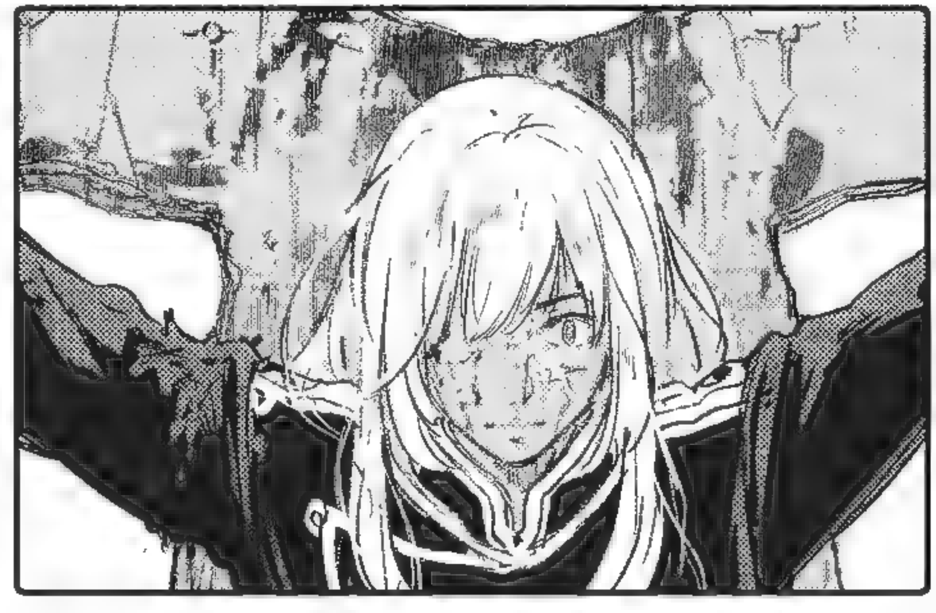
SIR KALA-MÁRI.

I SEE THE RESEM-BLANCE.

I HEARD *HE*...

...HAD A SISTER WHO WENT MISSING AFTER THE FÁLAINA EXTERMINATION MISSION.


ORCA.
RECOGNIZE THIS GIRL?




LYKOS...

SO ADMIRABLE! SHE CAME TO SAVE YOU.
THIS GIRL, SO FULL OF HOPE.




HA HA HA HA HA HA!

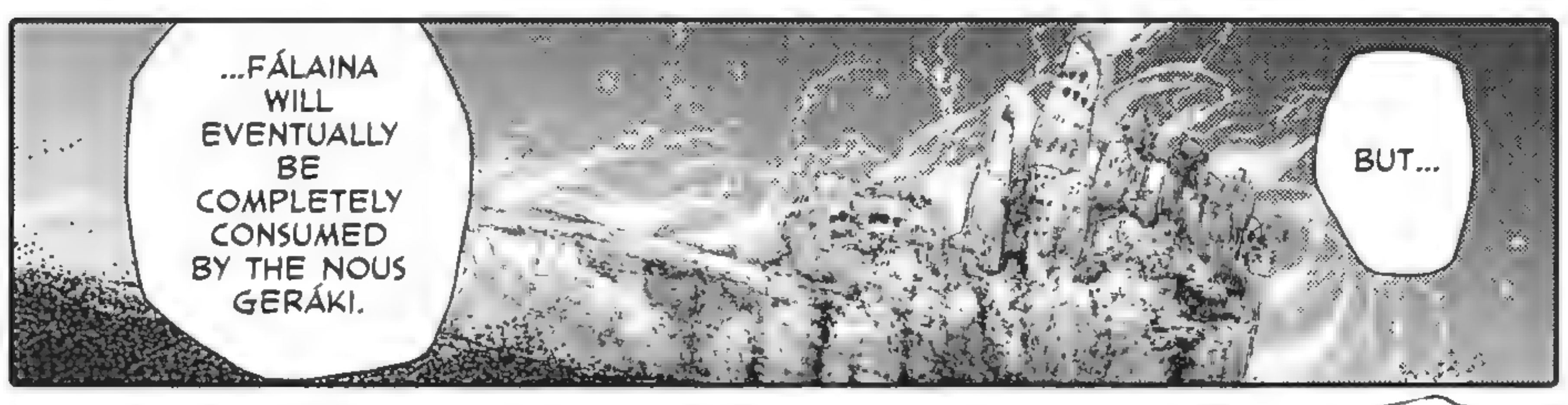

ORCA, ISN'T THIS WHAT YOU'VE BEEN OBSESSED WITH THIS WHOLE TIME?
YOUR PRECIOUS, PRECIOUS SISTER...


THIS CHILD!
SALINKÁRI.
THE MAN WHO TORMENTED MY BROTHER.
SO THIS IS THE COMMANDER OF GERÁKI.
CHOMP
HOW PREDICT-ABLE.
TING


SW
RECKLESS, ARROGANT SIBLINGS!
IP
DASH
STOP IT!
!
THOK

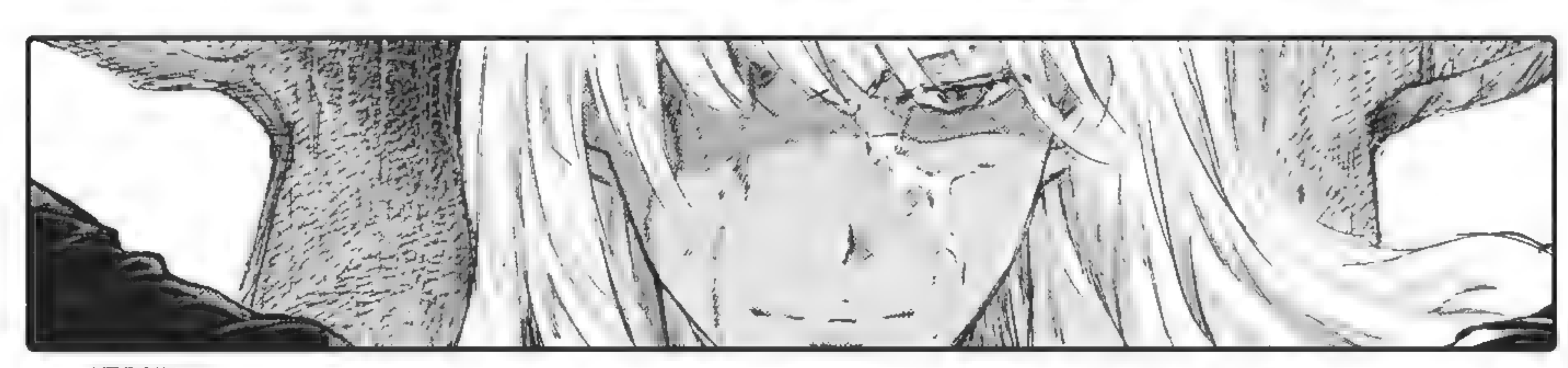

THUD
ITIÁ.
YOU'RE HURT!
LICK
YOU SHOULD TEACH YOUR WIFE AND SISTER BETTER MANNERS.
NEVER MIND. I'LL DO IT MYSELF LATER.
YOUR WIFE AND SISTER THINK THEY CAN SAVE YOU SOMEHOW.
YOU ALL HAVE THE SAME EYES.
AND YOU THINK YOU HAVE TO SAVE THEM BOTH.


DID YOU LOSE YOURSELVES...
...TO FÁLAINA?
YOU'RE EVEN WORRIED ABOUT THAT MUD SHIP.


BUT...
...FÁLAINA WILL EVENTUALLY BE COMPLETELY CONSUMED BY THE NOUS GERÁKI.


THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS *HOPE* IN THIS WORLD.


THERE IS NO SALVATION.
ONLY FAILURE AND DESPAIR.




WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

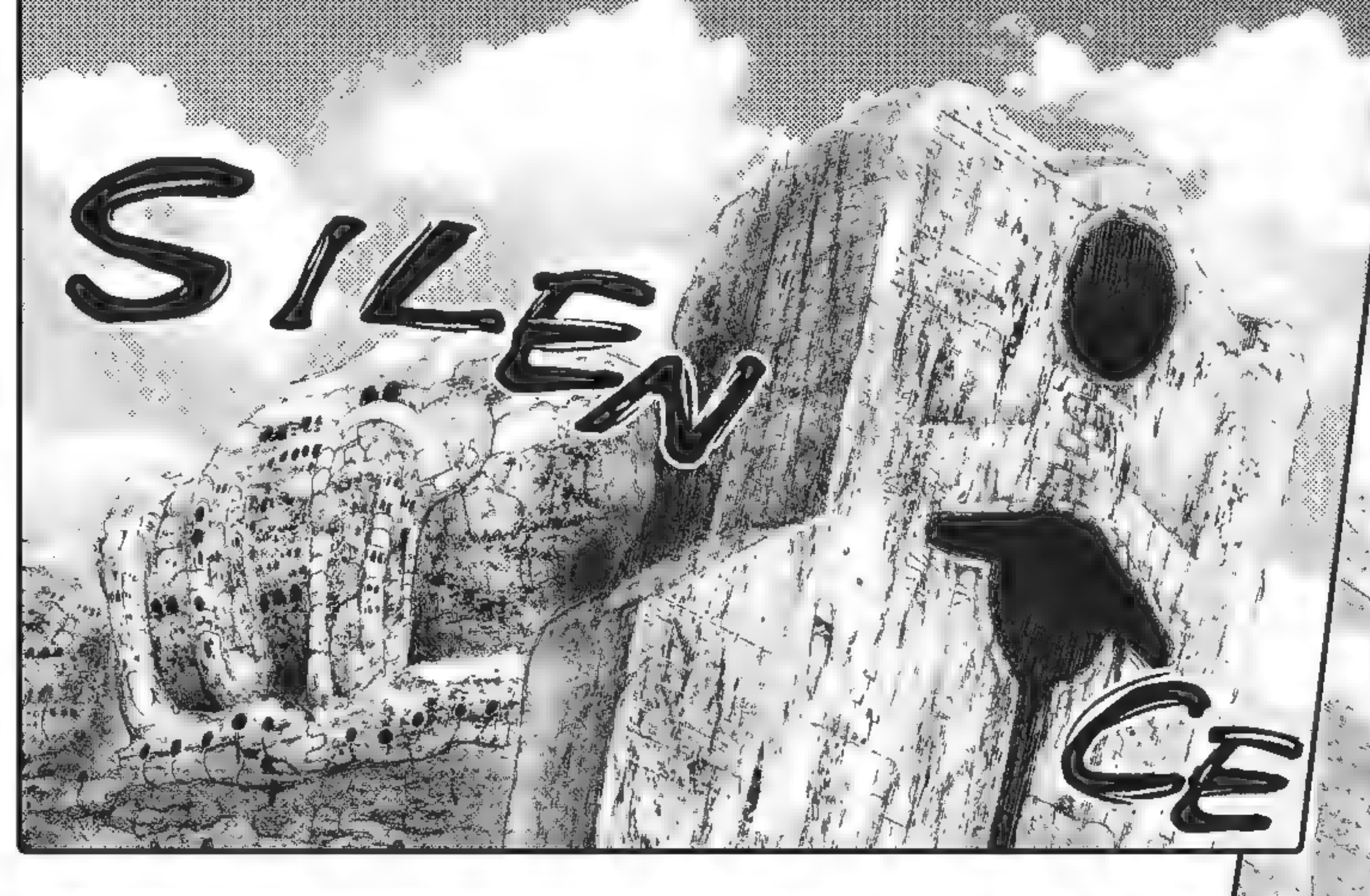

MY SISTER WILL TEACH YOU.

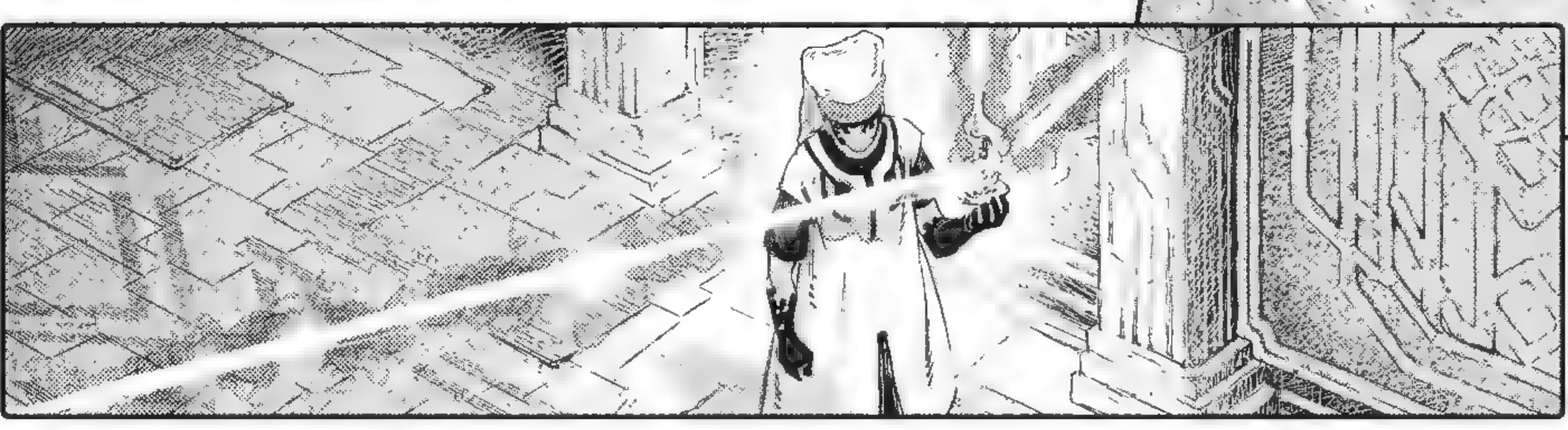

SHK
KLATTA
MY SISTER ...
...DIDN'T COME TO SAVE *ME*.
SHE'S TRYING TO SAVE *FÁLAINA*.
IT'S HER KÍTRINO.


DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE A HEART'S PARADISE.
I TRIED TO IMPOSE MY WILL ON FÁLAINA...
...BUT IN THE END, *IT* CAPTIVATED *ME*.
DO YOU UNDER-STAND WHAT THAT MEANS?
FÁLAINA IS NOT AN ISLAND OF DESPAIR.
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE MY SISTER'S MIRACULOUS PARADISE.


I...
...didn't give up.
OWWW.
UMPH
I'M OKAY.
I'M OKAY.
FALLING... OFF WALLS...
...HAPPENS ALL THE TIME...ON THE MUD WHALE.
OOF.
STAGGER
LYKOS, ORCA...
WAIT FOR ME.
...


BONK
OW!
SHA
!!
I should be the one saying "Ow."
ROLL
Don't you think that's a terrible way to treat me, child?


SILENCE




NOBODY ON KARCHARÍAS CAN USE THEIR THYMIA...
...AND THE SHIP HAS STOPPED ON ITS OWN.
I WONDER WHY.


DO AS I SAY, NOT AS I DO.
FWAA




GASP
...

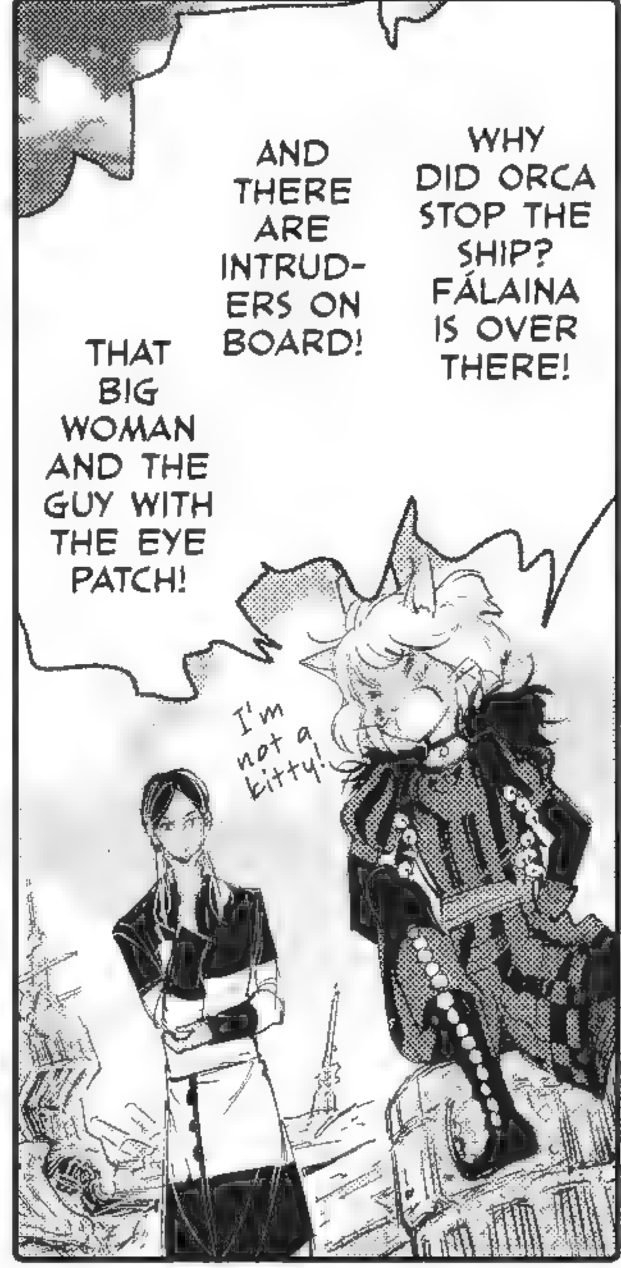

SHNK
DASH


THERE SHOULD BE FIVE MORE.


WHY CAN'T I USE MY THYMIA?
FÁLAINA! I CAN SEE FÁLAINA, BUT GERÁKI IS GOING TO GET THERE FIRST!

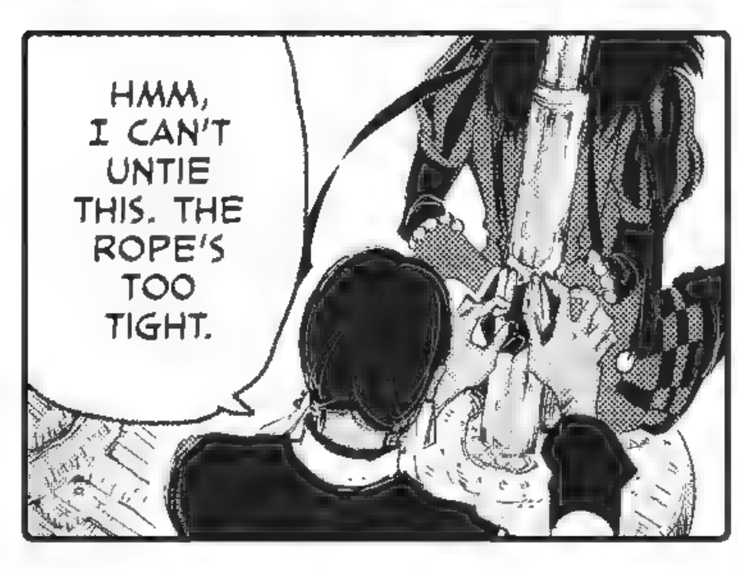

JOLT

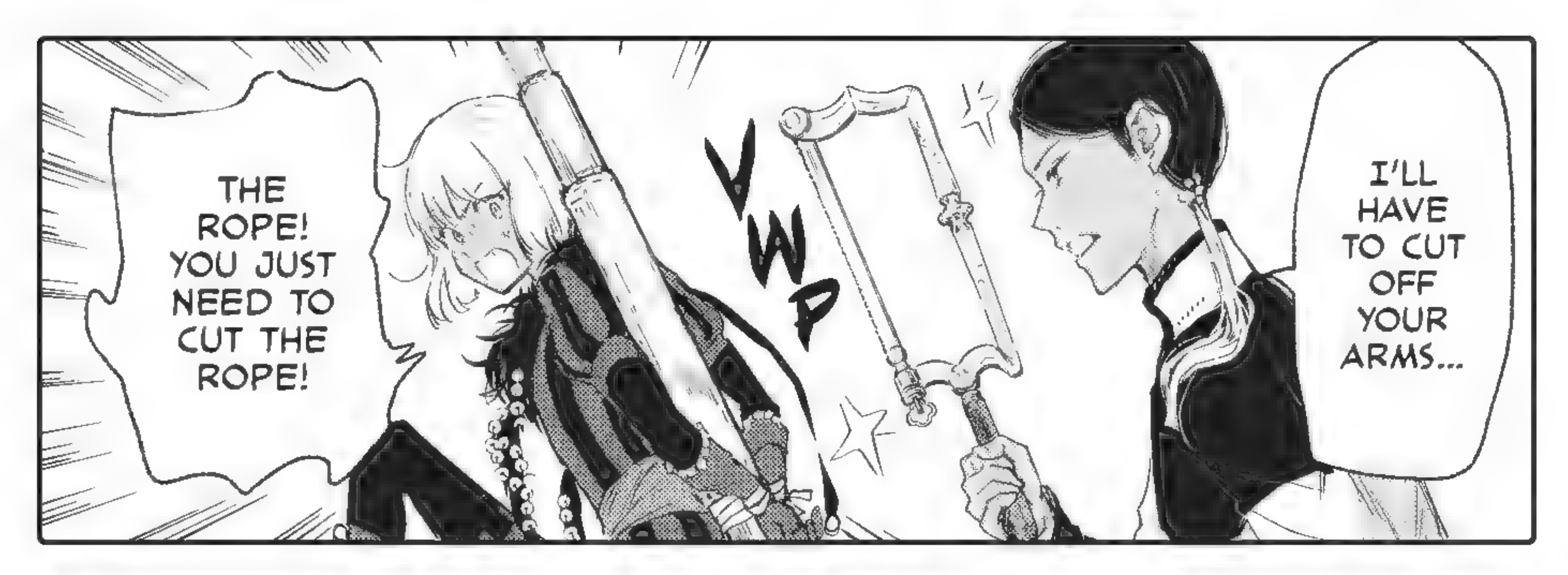

DOC!


WHY DID ORCA STOP THE SHIP? FÁLAINA IS OVER THERE!
AND THERE ARE INTRUDERS ON BOARD!
THAT BIG WOMAN AND THE GUY WITH THE EYE PATCH!
I'm not a kitty!


OH, NEVER MIND THAT.
YOUR INFORMATION IS A LITTLE OUTDATED.


KITTY CAT, WHY ARE YOU PLAYING HERE?


HMM, I CAN'T UNTIE THIS. THE ROPE'S TOO TIGHT.



ACTUALLY... KITTY CAT, GO LOOK FOR THE PRIESTS.

PRIESTS?

THAT'S RIGHT. THOSE STRANGE PEOPLE ORCA PUT IN THE DAÍMONAS'S ROOM.

THEY'VE ALL DISAP-PEARED FROM THEIR POSTS.

I THINK THEY'RE USING THEIR SECRET POWERS TO CAUSE STRANGE THINGS TO HAPPEN ON KARCHARÍAS.

ORCA WAS SUSPICIOUS OF THEM, SO HE ASKED ME...

...TO ***DISPOSE*** OF THEM ALL ONCE OUNI WAS RELEASED.

DISPOSE OF THEM?

SHA

NO WAY I'M DOING ANYTHING THAT ME-NIAL.


YOU MIGHT CONSIDER IT AN UNIMPORTANT TASK...

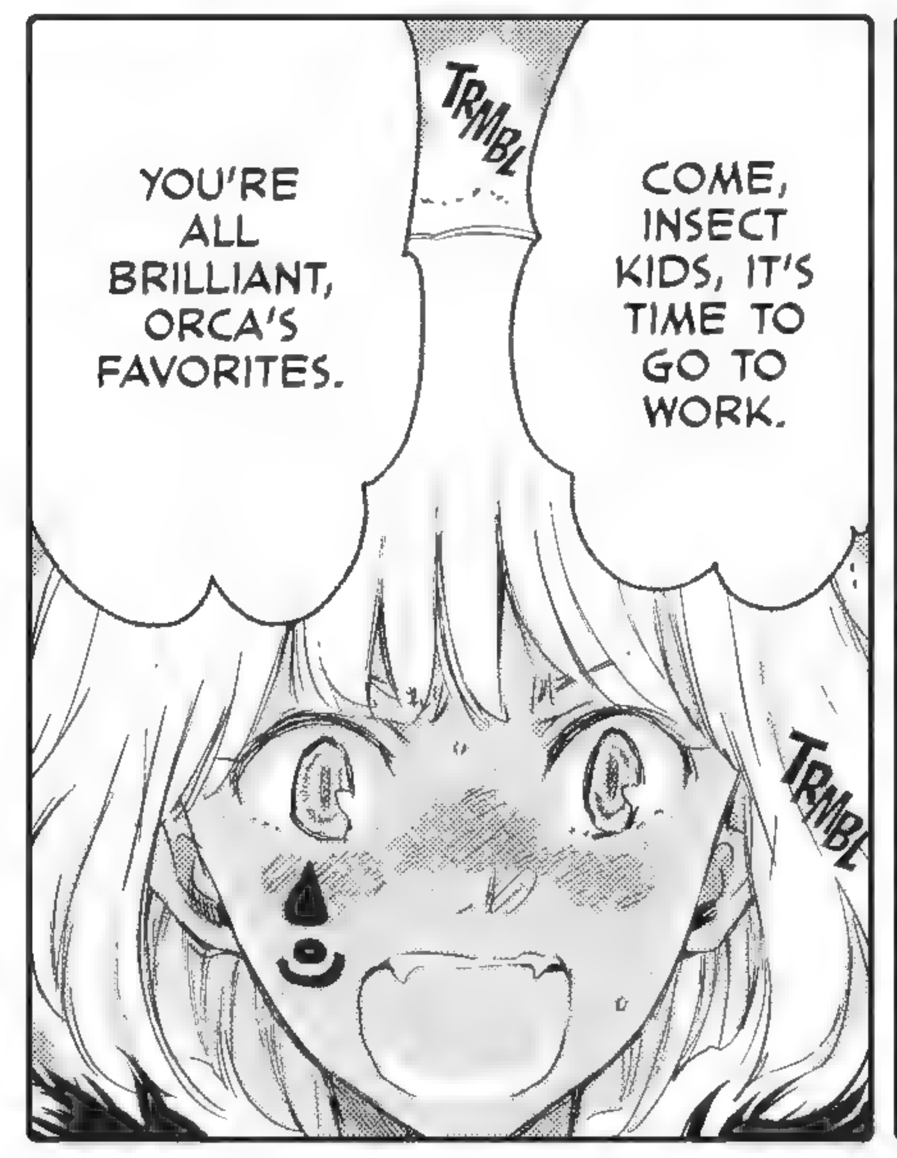

...BUT I CONSIDER ANY FAVOR FOR ORCA TO BE OF ABSOLUTE IMPORTANCE.
HE'S MY ONLY FRIEND.


...
NEVER MIND.


I'LL JUST ASK THE INSECT CAGE.


THEY'RE LOYAL, GOOD KIDS...


...AND ORCA PREFERS THEM ANYWAY.
THEY'VE ALREADY DISPOSED OF ONE PRIEST.


TRMBL
COME, INSECT KIDS, IT'S TIME TO GO TO WORK.
YOU'RE ALL BRILLIANT, ORCA'S FAVORITES.
TRMBL


MOVE, YOU QUACK!
SHOVE
THE PRIESTS PROBABLY PLAN TO STEAL THYMIA FROM THE SOLDIERS ON BOARD AND SEIZE CONTROL OF THE SHIP.
THEY PUT THE THYMIA SEAL MEANT FOR THE DAÍMONAS ON ALL OF KARCHARÍAS.
YOU DON'T NEED TO TELL ME THAT.
I'LL DISPOSE OF THE REMAINING FIVE, THEN GO TO FÁLAINA.
YOU CAN'T USE YOUR THYMIA AT ALL NOW, SO BE CAREFUL.


GRAAAH
GRAAAH
I- IT'LL BE FINE...
...WITH OUNI AND THE COMMANDER...
YEAH.
...
WHAT ARE WE DOING?
WE SAID WE WERE THE POWERFUL ONES.
WE REFUTED THEM AND SAID WE WOULD MOVE THIS ISLAND WHERE WE WANTED...
...BUT IN REALITY, ALL WE CAN DO IS RUN AWAY.



NOW WE BELIEVE ...
...IT HAS TO BE *THEM*.
WATCH OUT, OUNI!
BEHIND YOU!


COM-
MANDER!
GULP


WHOOOSH
OUNI...
OUNI AND THE COMM-ANDER...
...WERE SWALLOWED BY THE MONSTER!


...
WHERE ...?
COM-MANDER...
COM-MANDER, WHERE ARE YOU?
SO, THIS IS THE INSIDE OF THE MONSTER.


KREE
OOPS.
TURN.
GASP
COM-
MANDER!





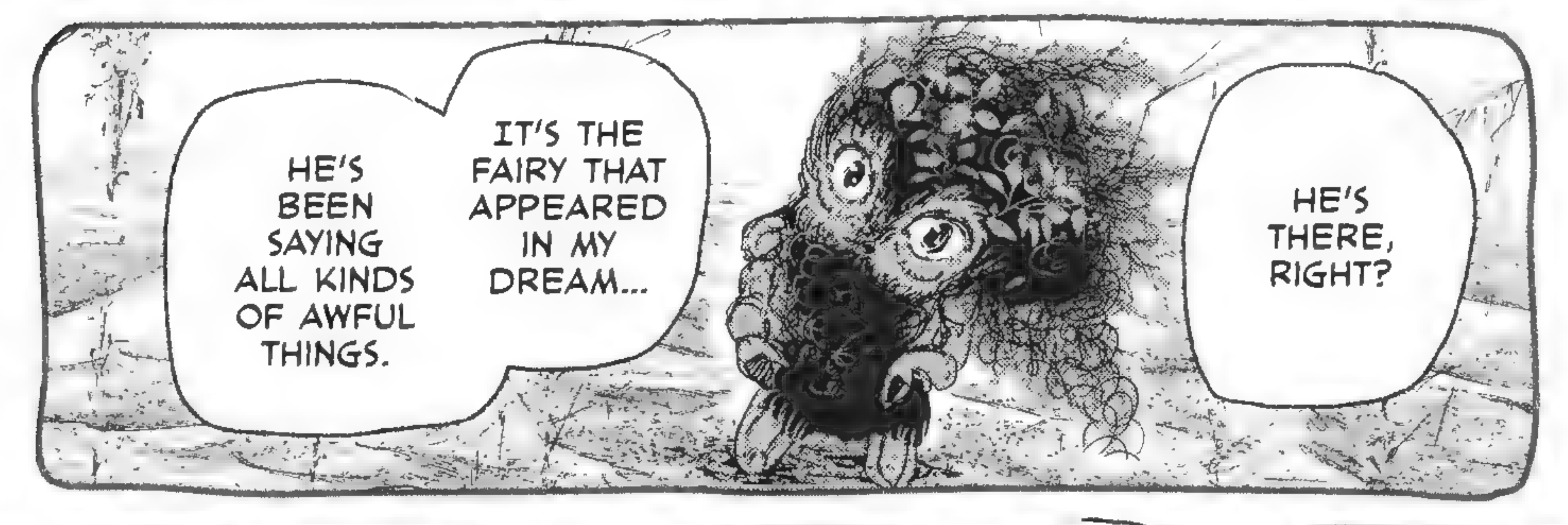
COM-MANDER, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE.
OUNI? WHERE ARE YOU?
YOUR EYES...
CAN YOU SEE ME?
IT CAME IN THROUGH MY EYE...
...SO NOW I'M STUCK TO THIS THING.
I DON'T THINK...
...I CAN LEAVE.


OUNI, I WANT YOU...
...TO FIND A WAY TO GET OUT OF HERE BY YOURSELF.
DON'T SAY THAT!
...
YOU'RE COMING TOO.
THERE'S SOMETHING WEIRD HERE...
IS IT...
...A FAIRY WITH AN UNUSUAL FACE?
KREE
FLUTTER
JOLT
LET'S TALK FOR A WHILE.
...


WHEN I WAS LITTLE...
...I ONCE HAD A TERRIFYING DREAM.
IT'S HARD TO DE-SCRIBE...
I WAS IN A SPIRALING WORLD...
...THAT KEPT TURNING INSIDE OUT. EVERYTHING WAS CRAZY.
A FAIRY CREATURE WITH AN OVERSIZED HEAD WAS WATCHING IT ALL.
ITS INNOCENT EXPRESSION WAS OUT OF PLACE IN THAT CHAOS.
MY SPIRALING WORLD WAS AN OVAL...
...AND IT HAD NO DEPTH.
I FELT SICK... I ALMOST THREW UP IN THE DREAMLAND. THEN I WOKE UP.


THAT WAS THE DAY MY FATHER DIED. HE WAS ONE OF THE MARKED.
I WAS LITTLE, SO I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT HE WAS LIKE.


ISN'T THAT RIDICULOUS?
I REMEMBER MORE ABOUT THAT SPIRALING WORLD THAN I DO ABOUT MY FATHER.


HE'S THERE, RIGHT?
IT'S THE FAIRY THAT APPEARED IN MY DREAM...
HE'S BEEN SAYING ALL KINDS OF AWFUL THINGS.


...
A monster.
You're a monster.

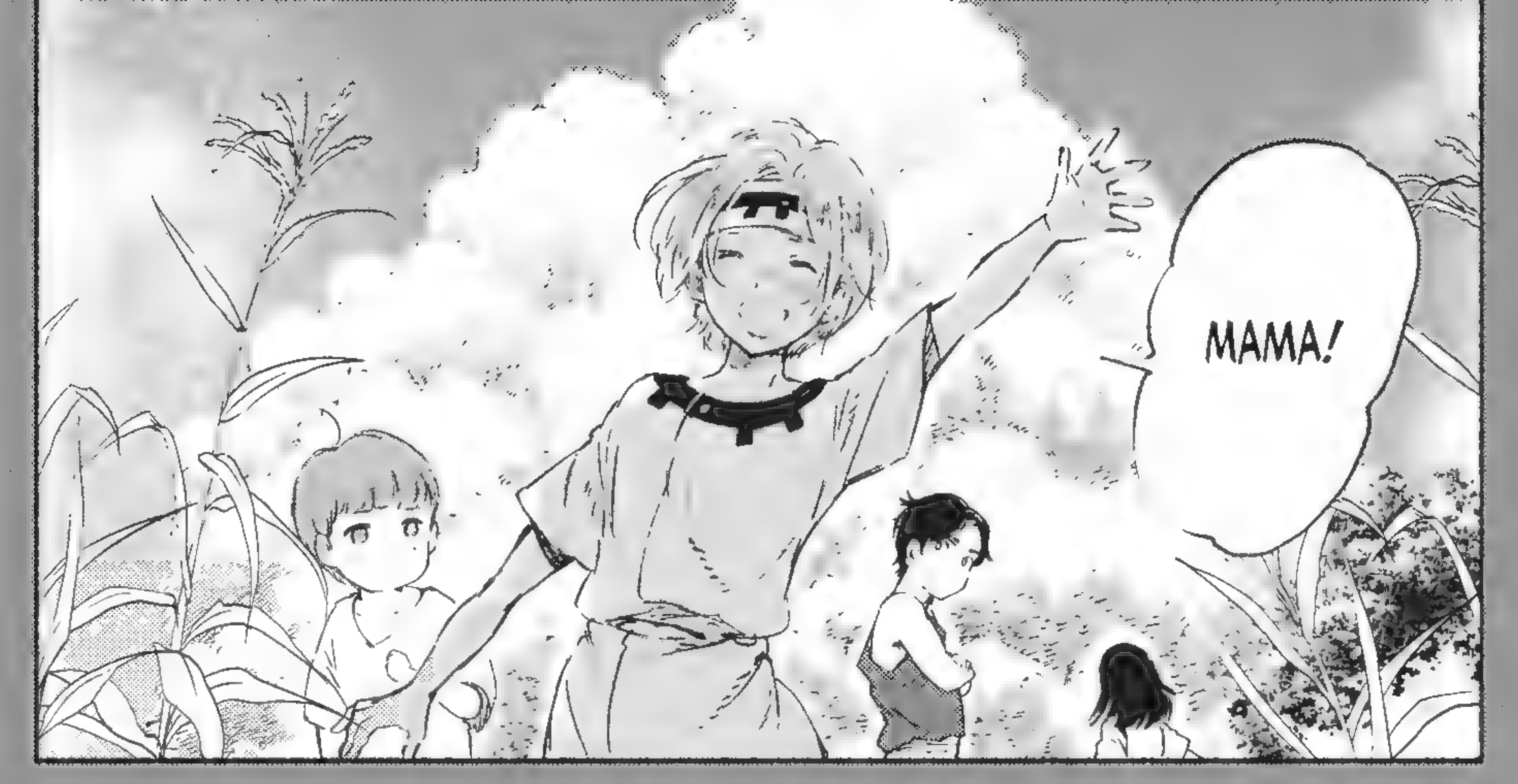

This one's a monster.
This one's a fake.
You're a monster born from...
...rage, grief and suffering.
A monster who can only destroy.
CAN YOU SHUT UP FOR A BIT?

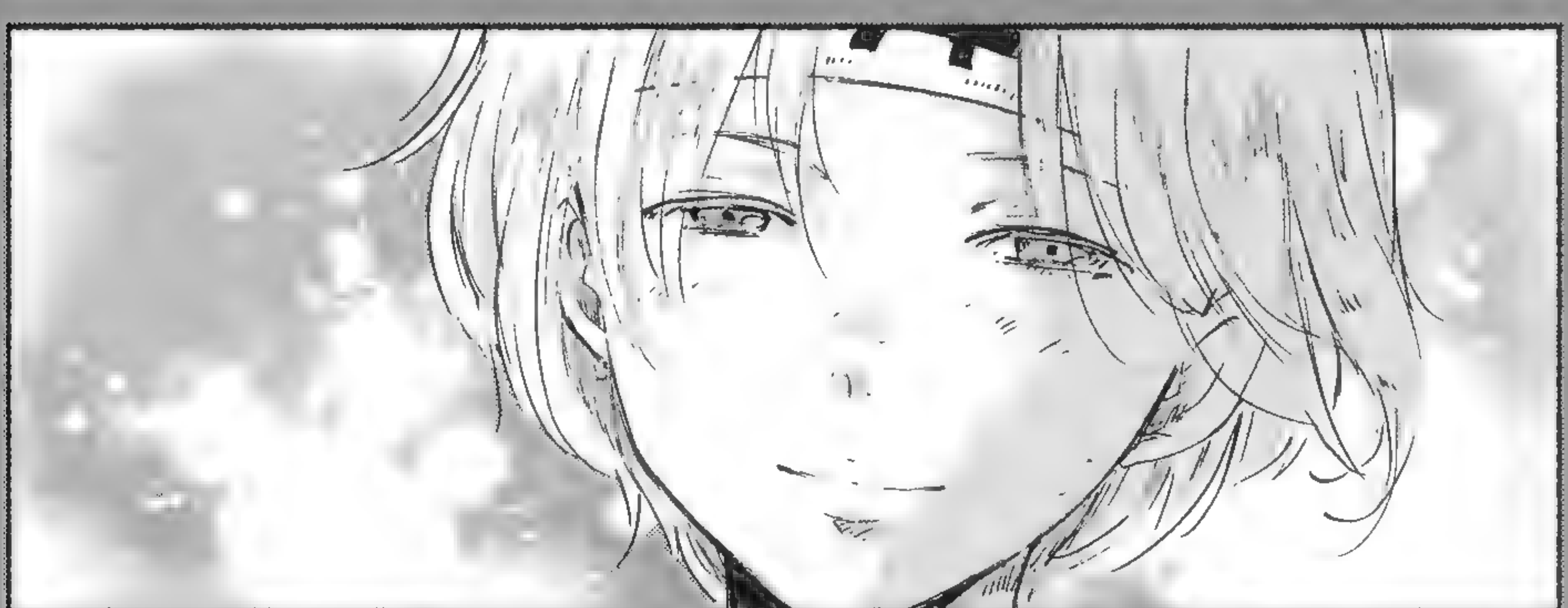

THU NK
WE WERE HAVING SUCH A NICE TALK.
DON'T WORRY.
I DON'T THINK TIME EXISTS HERE.
EVEN IF WE TALK FOR A WHILE BEFORE GOING BACK, THE MUD WHALE WON'T BE DESTROYED YET.
I WARNED YOU...
...ON THAT SILVER HAIR'S SHIP...
...THAT I HAVE SOME-THING TO TELL YOU.


CAN I TELL YOU NOW?
IT'S A SIMPLE TALE.
IT'LL BE OVER QUICK.
I ONLY HAVE ONE THING TO SAY.
A STORY FROM 16 YEARS AGO...
A STORY OF SOMEONE'S HEART.
YOU LOOK WELL, THANK GOODNESS.
YOUR SKIN AND HAIR LOOK AS CLEAR AS THE SEA OF SAND ON A SUNNY DAY.


TAISHA...
...I WAS WORRIED THAT YOU WOULD BECOME ILL...
...FROM THE BURDEN OF BEING MAYOR.
I'M NOT THAT DELICATE.
BESIDES, I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
I HEAR YOU'VE BEEN GETTING DIZZY AND CAN'T WALK SOMETIMES.
HAVE YOU TRIED BITTER CASSIA TEA?
THE CAUSE ISN'T PHYSI-CAL.
IT MIGHT BE BECAUSE OF THE DREAM.
DREAM?
I'VE HAD THE SAME DREAM FOUR TIMES.
A DREAM ABOUT A VERY PRETTY WOMAN.
...
RASHA, DID SHE...
...HAVE BIG, EYE-CATCHING EARRINGS?


MY MOTHER AND THE NEW MAYOR WERE DREAMING OF THE SAME PERSON.
THAT'S WHERE IT STARTED.
NO...
IT REALLY STARTED A LONG TIME BEFORE THAT...





...IN THE RECORD...

...OF THE MUD DOLLS OF THIS ISLAND.

A Story About Hearts - The End-



Chapter 70
In the Darkness of the Turning World





I HAD A DREAM THAT I WAS RIDING ON THE BACK...
...OF A BEAUTIFUL, MYSTERIOUS CREATURE— SOMETHING I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE!
I WAS FLYING THROUGH THE AIR FOREVER.
HA HA, YOU'RE SO EXCITED...
...YOU MUST HAVE REALLY ENJOYED THAT DREAM, SHUAN.




DO YOU KNOW...
...HOW OUR DREAMS ARE FORMED?
HAKUJI!
TELL ME!
PLEASE TELL US!
WHILE WE'RE ASLEEP, OUR SOULS AND OUR HEARTS LEAVE OUR BODIES AND FLY TO DIFFERENT LOCATIONS, OR TO THE PAST OR TO THE FUTURE.
WHAT THEY EXPERIENCE THERE COMES TO US AS DREAMS.
REALLY? THAT'S AMAZING!
AND THE GRAINS OF SAND WE INHALE DURING THE DAY...
...IMPART THEIR KNOWLEDGE TO US THROUGH DREAMS.
DREAMS MAY BE GIVING US HINTS TO HELP US BETTER UNDERSTAND THE WORLD.

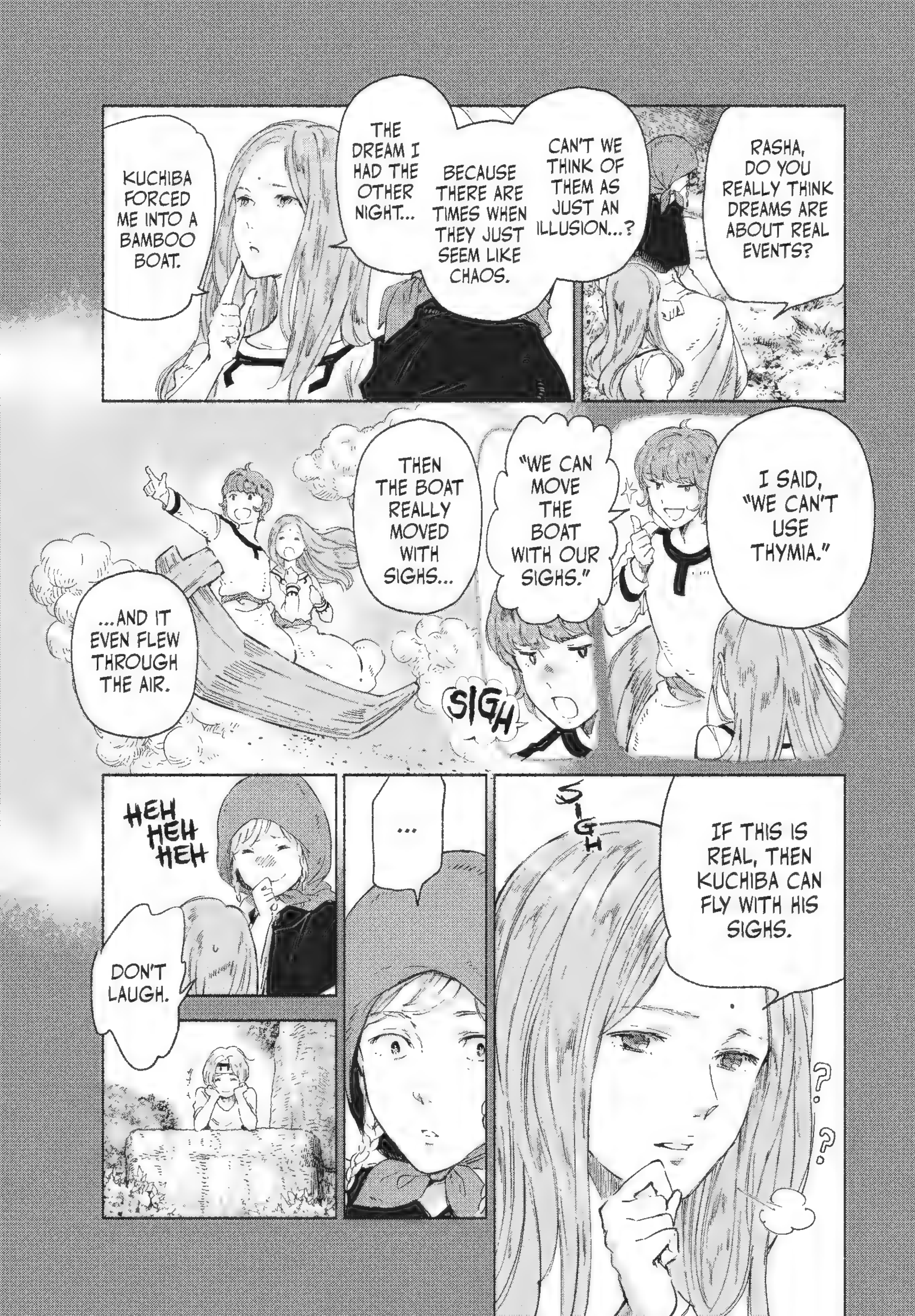

IF THAT CREATURE REALLY EXISTS, I DEFINITELY WANT TO SEE IT.
DREAMS ARE AMAZING!
MY MOTHER, HAKUJI AND SEVERAL OF THE OTHER UNMARKED WHO HAVEN'T JOINED THE COMMITTEE OF ELDERS YET...
...HAVE A TEA GROUP CALLED THE DREAM ASSEMBLY.
TODAY THEY'RE TELLING EACH OTHER ABOUT THEIR DREAMS, LIKE THEY ALWAYS DO.
THERE'S NO WAY FOR US ON THE MUD SHIP TO LEARN ABOUT THE OUTSIDE WORLD, EXCEPT WHEN THE OCCASIONAL ISLAND OR WRECKAGE FLOATS BY.
WE LOOK INSIDE BECAUSE THE OUTSIDE IS UNKNOWABLE.
DREAMS ARE FRAGMENTS OF THAT INSIDE WORLD THAT FIND A WAY INTO OUR HEARTS.
THAT'S HOW THE TEA GROUP IS TRYING TO LEARN ABOUT THE TRUTHS OF THE WORLD.


WHEN THEY JOIN THE COMMITTEE OF ELDERS, THEY'LL BE TAUGHT ABOUT THE TRUTHS OF THE WORLD...
...BUT UNTIL THEN, THEY WANT TO INVESTIGATE THOSE TRUTHS FOR THEMSELVES.
UMM, I WONDER IF I MET HIM IN A DREAM?
I FEEL LIKE I'VE KNOWN HIM A LONG TIME...
...EVEN THOUGH HE WAS ONLY BORN THIS YEAR.
WHO'S THAT? HE'S WHITE AND MUSHY.
THEY ASKED ME TO WATCH HIM FOR A BIT.
OHH.
HE DOESN'T HAVE AN AURA WHEN HE CRIES, SO HE'S UN-MARKED.
THERE, THERE, THERE, THERE...
PAT PAT PAT
YOU PAT HIM TOO, SHUAN.
...
GOT YOUR NOSE.
POIK
DON'T BE MEAN!
HA HA HA HA!

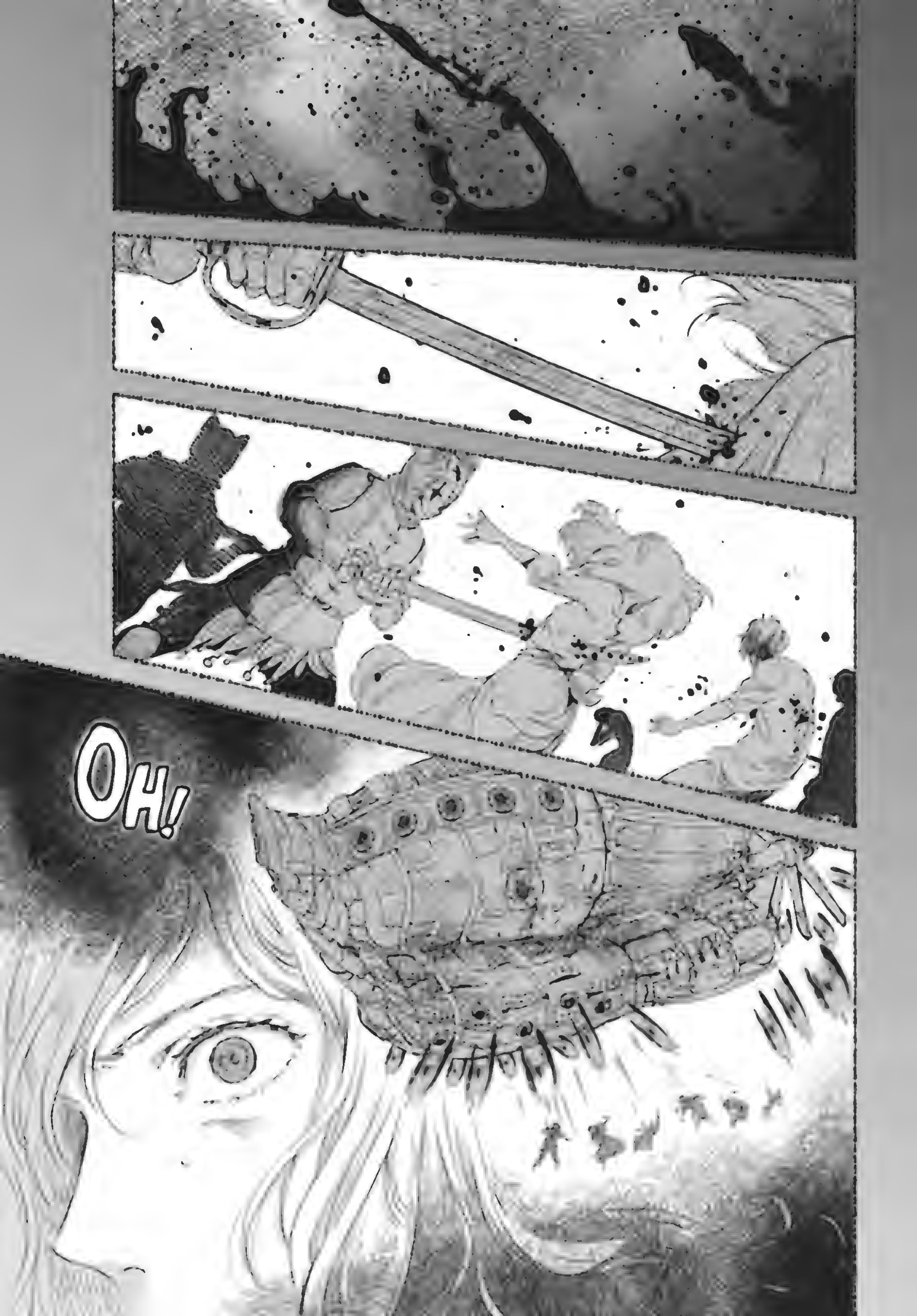

THAT YEAR, HAKUJI, ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE DREAM ASSEMBLY, TURNED 61 AND JOINED THE COMMITTEE OF ELDERS.
WHICH MEANT IT WAS TIME FOR HIM TO FIND OUT IF THE ANSWERS HE HAD FOUND FOR HIMSELF WERE TRUE.
WELL ...
I'M SURE THEY WEREN'T THE ANSWERS HE EXPECTED.
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT!
THE PEOPLE OF THE MUD WHALE ARE THE DESCENDANTS OF CRIMINALS, AND THE ISLAND...
...IS EATING THEM ALIVE.
THAT REALITY CONTINUES TO MOCK THE PEOPLE OF THIS ISLAND TO THIS DAY.

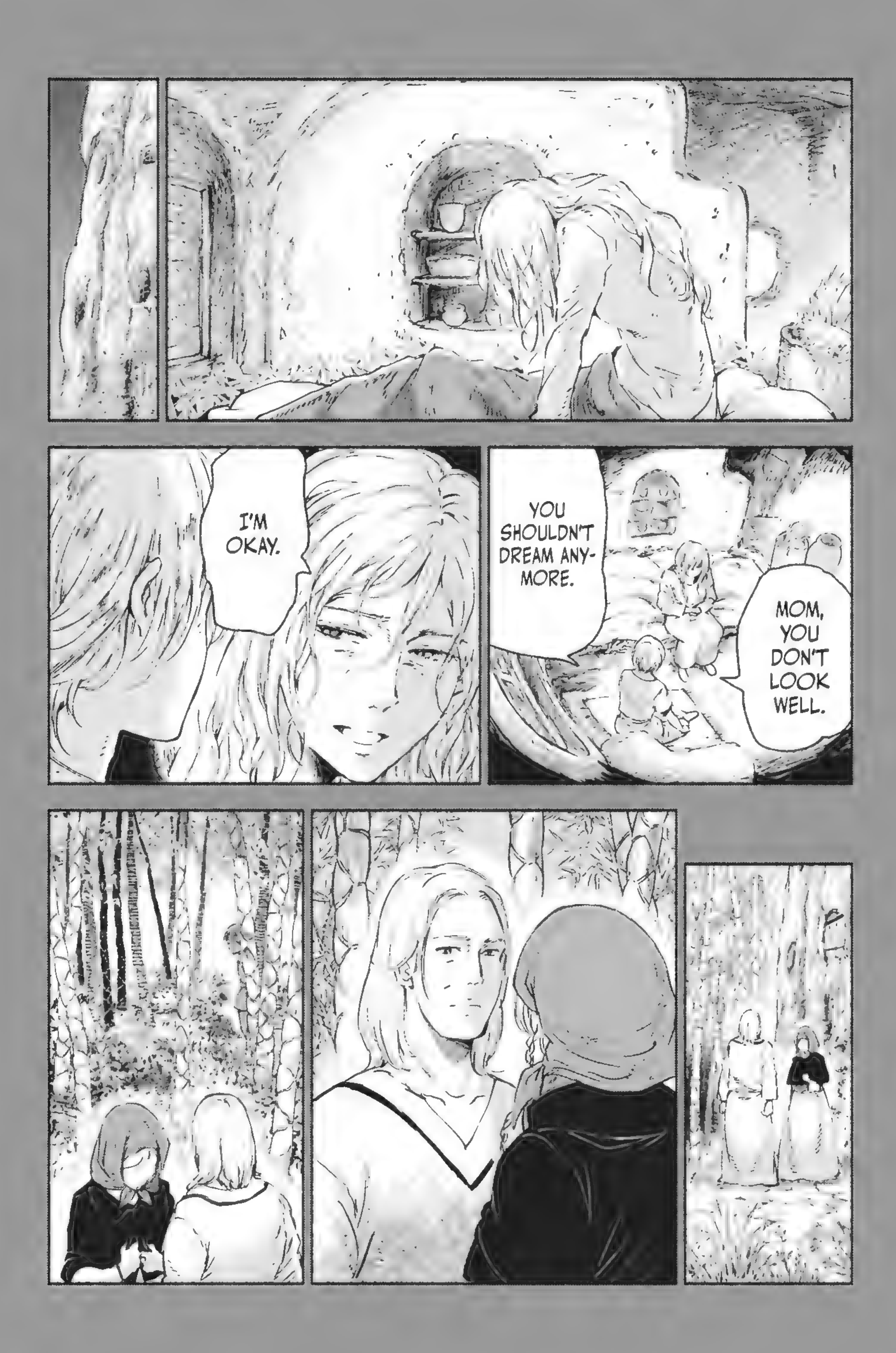

THEY ARE ABOUT TO BE CONSUMMED UP BY A SUPPOSED SIN THAT WAS NEVER ACTUALLY COMITTED.
HAKUJI, LEARNING THE TRUTH OF THE WORLD IN THE COMMITTEE OF ELDERS.
MY MOTHER, DREAMING OF *HER*.
AND TAISHA BECOMING THE NEW MAYOR AND HAVING THE SAME DREAMS.
IT ALL STARTED THERE.
YEAR 77 OF THE SAND EXILE, THE YEAR I LOST MYSELF.


OKAY, LET'S PUT OUR DREAMS TOGETHER.
THE WOMAN WITH THE EARRINGS CAME TO THE MUD WHALE FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD.
AND SHE BECAME THE LEADER OF THE ISLAND.
I'LL CONTINUE FROM THERE.
THE MAN SHE LOVED WAS A SPY FOR THE EMPIRE.
SO SHE KILLED HIM...
...USING A POWERFUL CHILD WITH BLACK HAIR.
YES, I THINK THAT'S ABOUT RIGHT.
TAISHA, YOUR DREAM IS MORE VIVID THAN MINE.
...


RASHA, DO YOU REALLY THINK DREAMS ARE ABOUT REAL EVENTS?
CAN'T WE THINK OF THEM AS JUST AN ILLUSION...?
BECAUSE THERE ARE TIMES WHEN THEY JUST SEEM LIKE CHAOS.
THE DREAM I HAD THE OTHER NIGHT...
KUCHIBA FORCED ME INTO A BAMBOO BOAT.
I SAID, "WE CAN'T USE THYMIA."
"WE CAN MOVE THE BOAT WITH OUR SIGHS."
SIGH
THEN THE BOAT REALLY MOVED WITH SIGHS...
...AND IT EVEN FLEW THROUGH THE AIR.
SIGH
IF THIS IS REAL, THEN KUCHIBA CAN FLY WITH HIS SIGHS.
...
HEH HEH HEH
DON'T LAUGH.




OH!


MOM, YOU DON'T LOOK WELL.
YOU SHOULDN'T DREAM ANYMORE.
I'M OKAY.


HOW MANY DAYS HAS IT BEEN SINCE IT LAST RAINED?
DON'T KNOW.
THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY NEEDS TO DO BETTER THAN THAT!
HEY, I CAN FLY WITH MY SIGHS, KUCHIBA!
??
YOU'RE NOT STUCK TO TAISHA'S BACK TODAY.
I-I'M THE MAYOR'S AIDE. WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME BEING CLOSE TO HER?
HEY, WILL YOU ASK TAISHA TO NOT TALK ABOUT DREAMS WITH MY MOTHER?
RASHA? WHAT HAPPENED?
OH, THAT.
SOMETHING ABOUT A WOMAN KILLING THE PERSON SHE LOVED...
HAVING SUCH AWFUL DREAMS IS WEARING HER DOWN.

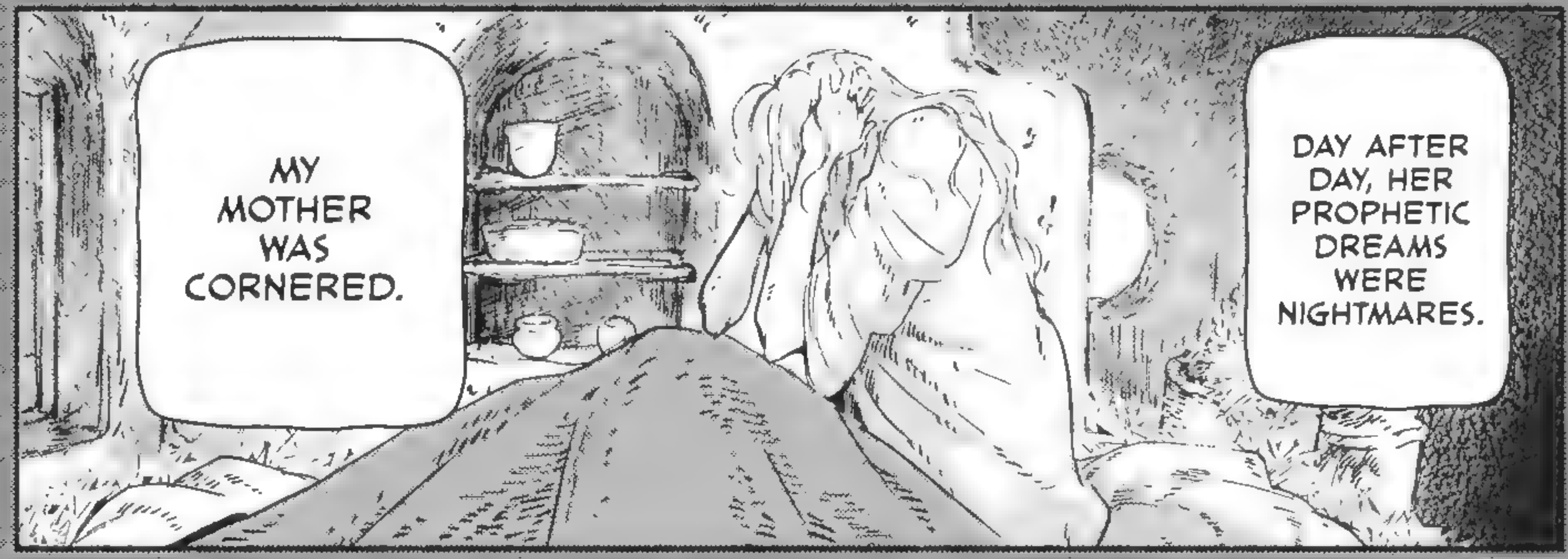

IT WORRIES ME TOO.
THE COMMITTEE OF ELDERS IS ASKING TAISHA ABOUT HER DREAMS A LOT.
SOMETHING MUST BE HAPPENING.
LATELY, THE ATMOSPHERE AT THE COMMITTEE OF ELDERS HAS FELT FIERCE.
THIS ISN'T ABOUT THE COMMITTEE OF ELDERS.
I'M TALKING ABOUT MY MOM'S HEALTH!
YOU'RE REALLY WORRIED ABOUT YOUR MOM, HUH?
!!
THAT'S RIGHT, YOU PERV!
POING
THAT'S NOT IT! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S WEIRD!
SHAMELESSLY APPEARING IN TAISHA'S DREAM, YOU PERV.

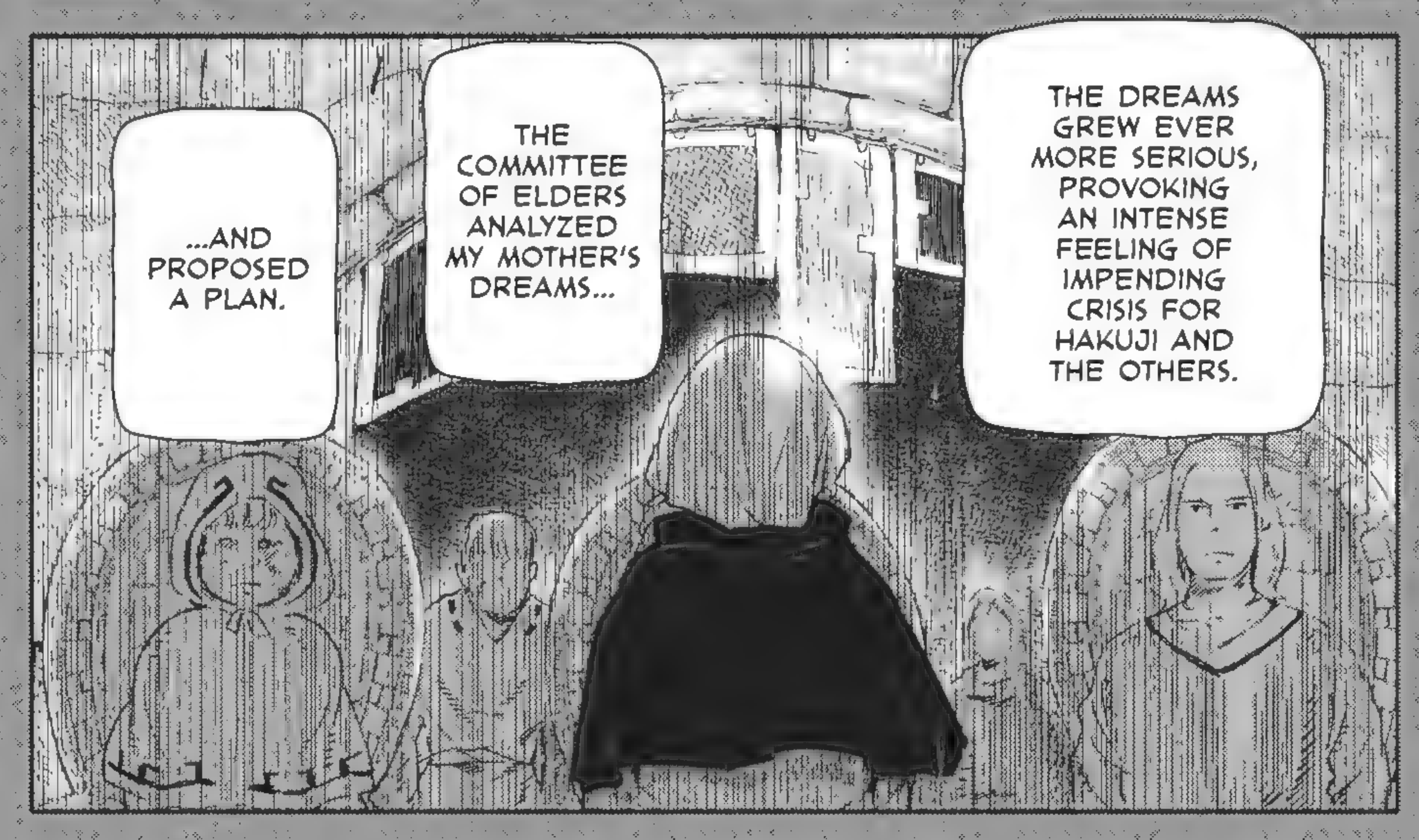

DASH
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, YOU BRAT!
...
HEH HEH.
MUST BE NICE. THEY'RE SO CAREFREE.
SIGH
TMP


NEVER AGAIN...
...WILL I GO TO THAT ROOM...
I PROMISED I WOULDN'T BRING FORTH MIDEN.

YOU DID THE RIGHT THING...

...BYAKU-ROKU.






THEY WOULD CREATE A *CLAY DOLL*.


SHUAN ...
...WE'RE GOING TO CREATE A VERY STRONG CHILD.
HE'LL HAVE POWERFUL THYMIA AND LIVE LONGER THAN EVEN THE UNMARKED.
THE CHILD WILL BE GIVEN SASA, WHICH IS STORED IN THE HEART OF THE MUD WHALE, TO MAKE HIM STRONGER.


AND WHEN A DAÍMONAS APPEARS OR SOME-ONE ATTACKS THE MUD WHALE...
...HE WILL FIGHT TO SAVE US ALL.
A WARRIOR.
BUT A MARKED CHILD NEEDS TO BE THE *FIRST CHILD*.
MY MOTHER WAS COMPLETELY EXHAUSTED, HAUNTED BY WORSENING NIGHTMARES.


HER EYES WERE SAD, WITHOUT ANY LIGHT.
I WANTED TO MAKE MY MOTHER SMILE MORE THAN ANYTHING.
GRAB
I'LL DO IT.
LEAVE IT TO ME.
SHUAN...
THANK YOU.


DID THEY PIECE TOGETHER MY MOM'S DREAMS...
...AND COME UP WITH THE RITUAL?
NO ONE KNOWS ANYMORE.
IF I TRY TO REMEMBER, IT JUST DISAPPEARS. LIKE A DREAM FROM A FEW DAYS AGO.
AND I...


!!
WHO ARE YOU?


THAT'S MY HEART.
GIVE IT BACK!
LOOK...
I SLICE YOUR HEART VERY THINLY...
...AND INSERT OTHER PEOPLE'S HEARTS IN BETWEEN THE PIECES.
THEN I SMASH THEM TOGETHER.
I TWIST IT AND STICK IT TOGETHER.
I SLICE IT THINLY AGAIN...
...AND INSERT PEOPLE'S HEARTS AGAIN.
THEN I SMASH THEM.
ROUND AND ROUND, INSIDE OUT, TWISTED...
...AND INSERTED...
STOP IT!


SORRY.
OUR ANCESTORS...
...ARE THE ONES WHO SENT YOUR MOTHER THE DREAM OF THIS EXPERIMENT.
WHO... ARE YOU?
BUT IT WAS A FAILED EXPERIMENT.
IT'S THE WRONG INFORMATION.
OUR ANCESTORS WERE RESEARCHING THE CREATION OF A CREATURE CAPABLE OF DESTROYING A NOUS.
BUT THEY WERE TREMENDOUSLY OPPRESSED BY THE GOVERNMENT.
THEY NEEDED TO TRANSMIT THIS SECRET ART ACROSS TIME AND SPACE WITHOUT BEING DETECTED.
THAT'S... THE DREAM?
DID YOU USE MY MOTHER AND TAISHA?


THEY'RE THE ONES WHO DECIDED TO CARRY IT OUT.
THEIR TERROR AT THE PROSPECT OF A DAÍMONAS MADE THEM TRY TO CREATE A MONSTER.
THEY TRIED TO PROTECT THE ISLAND.
BUT THOSE ANCESTORS ARE THE ONES WHO *GAVE* THEM THAT FEAR THROUGH THE DREAMS, RIGHT?
THEY MADE MY MOTHER HAVE SO MANY TERRIBLE DREAMS.
THE MEMORY OF THOSE DREAMS WILL DISAPPEAR EVENTUALLY.
THAT'S NOT THE POINT!
But your mother ...
POOF
...offered you up.
So that she could get away from the terror of the dreams.
NO! I VOLUNTEERED.


But she didn't stop you...
Your mother...
...and the elders of the island...
...have abandoned you.
They knew you were going to suffer, but they used you anyway.
You are...
...not loved.
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
THAT'S... NOT... TRUE.
THIS IS GOOD.



THERE'S POWERFUL SADNESS AND DESPAIR FLOWING FROM YOU!
IF WE USE THESE EMOTIONS, GENERATING A DAÍMONAS FROM A HUMAN MIGHT FINALLY SUCCEED.
EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT LOVED, ISN'T HAVING THE POWER OF A MONSTER ENOUGH?
TAKE ALL THIS IN.
DO IT.
No, you're going...
...to fail.
JUST A WORLD GOING ROUND AND ROUND.


...turning inside out over and over, becoming twisted.
An oval with no depth...
A purgatory seething with the sadness and despair of many.


FOR SEVERAL DAYS AFTER-WARDS...
...I SUFFERED THE WHIRLPOOL OF EMOTIONS OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN INSERTED INTO ME.
I DREAMT CONTINUOUSLY ABOUT THE ROUND-AND-ROUND WORLD.
I KEPT FAINTING AND COMING BACK.
SHUAN!
AND I FOUND OUT THAT I WASN'T A WARRIOR.
WHO AM I?



I GUESS...

...THE REAL ME IS JUST A PORTION OF A REMNANT OF A SLICE OF A HEART.

I AM A CLAY VESSEL FILLED WITH OTHER PEOPLE'S REMAINS.

THE COMMITTEE OF ELDERS DID NOT CONTINUE THAT EXPERIMENT.

BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T CREATE A WARRIOR, JUST A CHILD WHO'D LOST HIMSELF.

THEY TREATED ME CAREFULLY, CAUTIOUSLY.

BUT I DIDN'T CARE ABOUT THE PEOPLE AROUND ME.

I DIDN'T KNOW WHO I WAS.




SHK
SHLK
SHLK
SHLK
COM-MANDER!
IT'S A BORING STORY, RIGHT?
SHLK
I DIDN'T MEAN TO TELL IT TO YOU.
THERE'S MORE.
SHLK
YOU'RE BEING SUCKED IN!
SHLK
NEVER MIND YOUR STORY!



SHIK
THE MONSTER CAN'T WAIT TO FEED ON ME.
THIS WORLD HAS BEEN WAITING FOR ME FOR A LONG TIME.
SHIK
SHIK
BUT THERE'S A LITTLE MORE...
...STILL TO COME.
THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR THAT!
SHIK
JUST WAIT!
HYOO
I'LL SAVE YOU!
I'LL PEEL YOU OUT AND BRING YOU BACK!


NO MATTER...
...WHAT YOU THOUGHT OF YOURSELF WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE...
...EVERYONE IS COUNTING ON YOU NOW!
WE'VE PROTECTED THE MUD WHALE TOGETHER!
WE'LL DO IT THIS TIME TOO!
SO WE'RE GOING BACK TOGETHER!
HYUP



In the Twilight of the Turning World - The End -

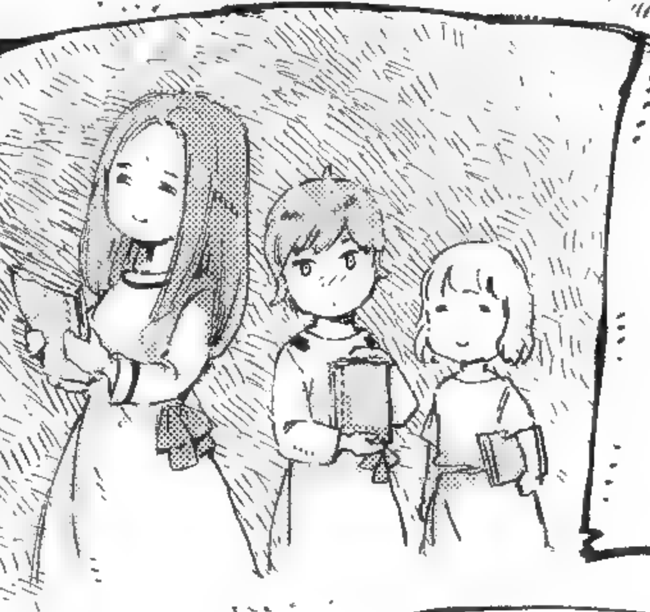
The Archivist's Notes



Sketch 11: Unmarked and the mayor

The residents of the Mud Whale say that they can't tell at the time of birth if a child is Marked or Unmarked.

After several days, a child who is Marked develops faint marks on their skin when they cry. These marks are called an **aura**.

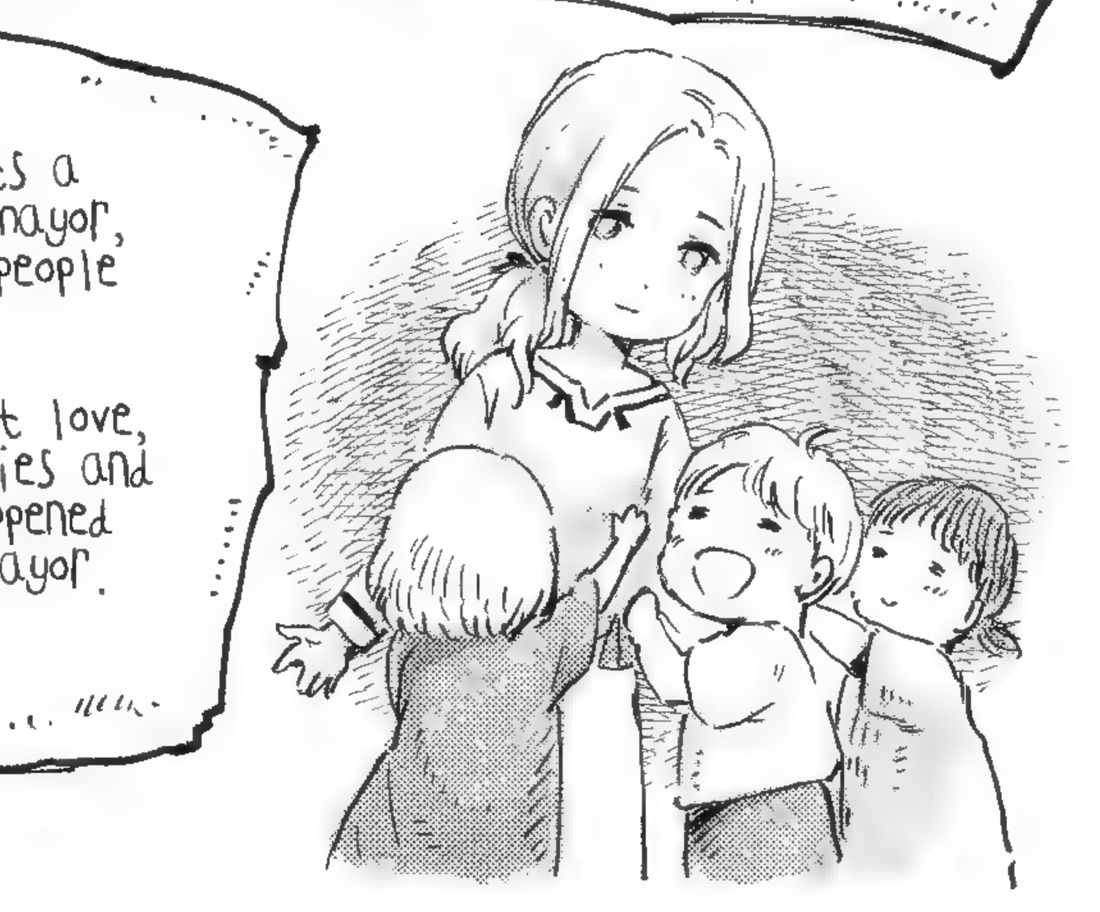


The Marked and Unmarked are educated separately and take on their designated duties by the time they are twelve.

The Unmarked mainly assist the mayor, the mayor's aide or the committee of elders, or they work in the infirmary. The mayor's aide and the incumbent mayor are chosen from the Unmarked.

The committee of elders selects a gentle person of character as mayor, someone worthy of the love of people of the Mud Whale.

If the mayor ever betrays that love, they are relieved of their duties and punished, but that has not happened since the time of the second mayor.






...of a girl in an hourglass, she invites me.
The pendant I found...
You can see the truth of what happened to the ones you hold dear.
...look inside me.
Child...
They are trapped inside the monstrous Nous.
WHOA
!!
IT'S OUNI AND THE COM-MANDER.
...hope will well up from the bottom of the Sea of Sand and burst forth to the surface.
When we face the hidden truth...
We dream of the past.

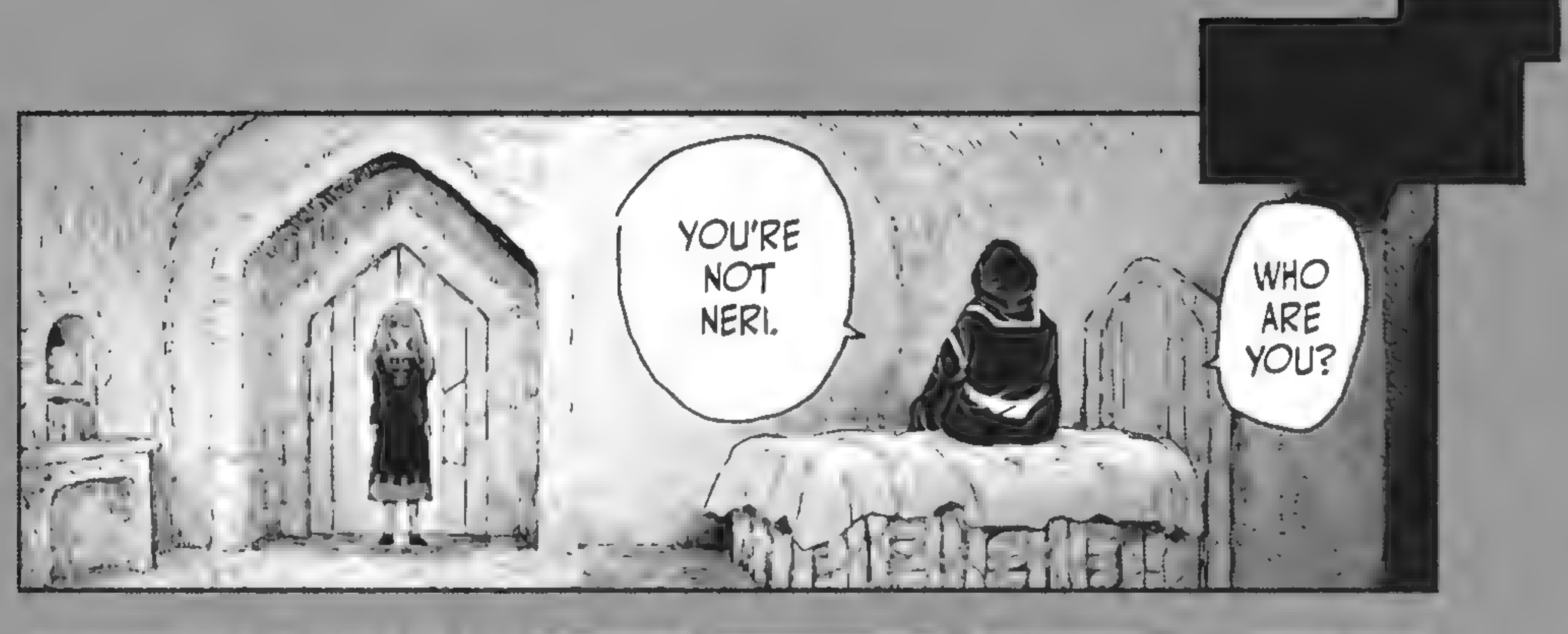

Chapter 71
The Second Birth

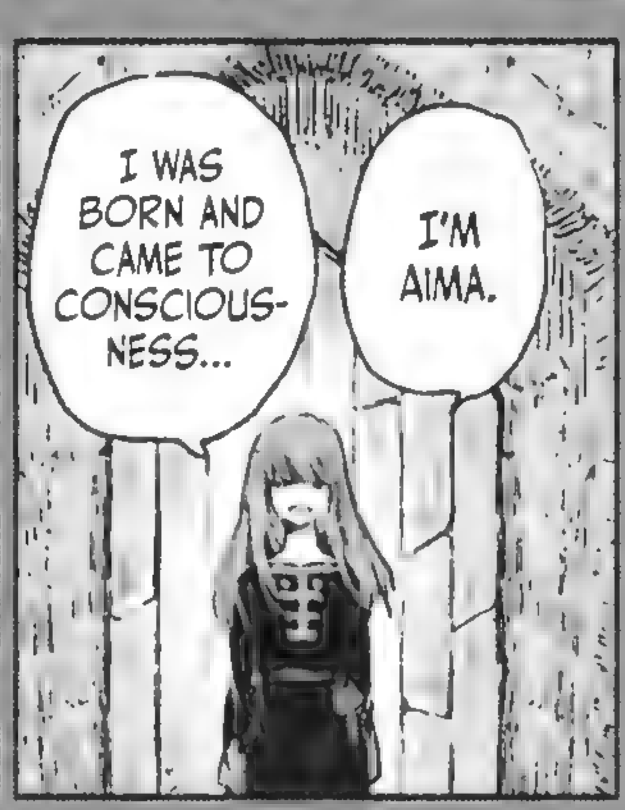

OUNI...
...FORGET THE STORIES OF MY PAST.
WHAT I REALLY WANT TO TELL YOU IS ABOUT *YOUR* PAST.
I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT TO GIVE YOU.
IN MY SASH.
SASH?
RUSTLE
WHAT IS IT?
IT'S A RECORD CHAKURO AND THE OTHERS BROUGHT BACK...
...FROM A CERTAIN ROOM.


IT'S A RECORD OF YOUR BIRTH.
OUNI! COMMANDER!
HEY!
ARE YOU TRAPPED?!
Unfortunately, they seem completely unaware of you, child.
GASP
OH.
WHY WOULD THE ARCHIVIST HAVE THESE?
OH, THAT BUNDLE OF PAPERS?
BEFORE WE ARRIVED IN AMONLOGIA...
...WE SAW THE MUD WHALE GHOST SHIP AND...
....WE WANTED TO HEAL OUNI, SO WE WENT TO MIDÉN'S ROOM.

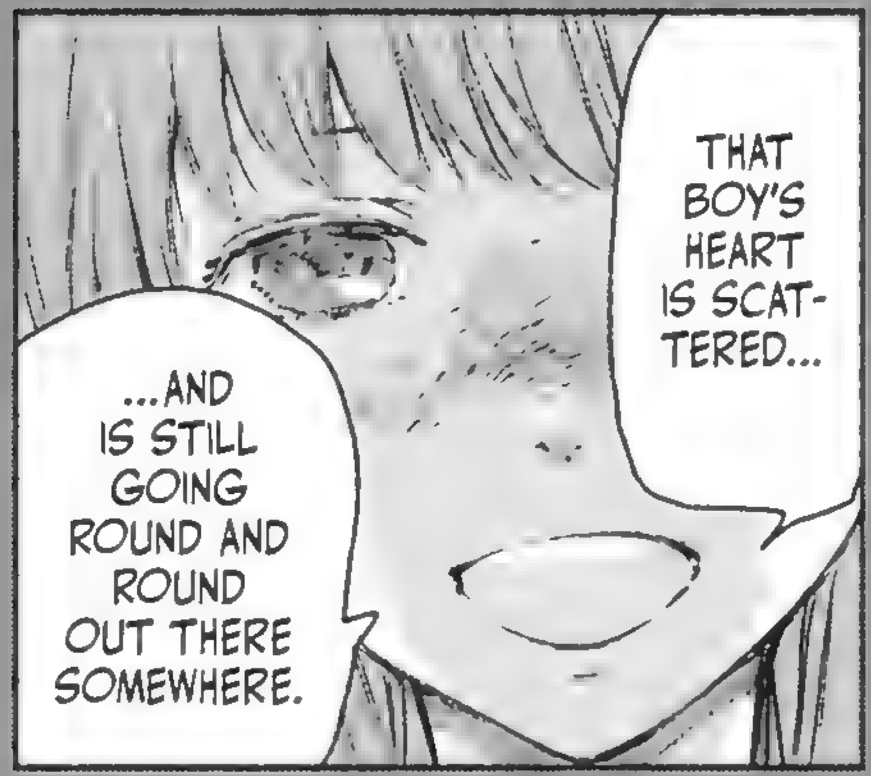

THE RECORDS OF THE MUD WHALE'S PAST COVERED THE WALLS...
...AND THERE WAS A BUNDLE OF PAPERS WITH WORDS WE COULDN'T READ.
KUCHIBA BROUGHT THEM BACK TO HIS ROOM TO TRY DECIPHERING THEM.
BUT THEN THE TWINS STOLE THEM...
...AND THE COMMANDER GOT A HOLD OF THEM.
IT WAS PROBABLY WRITTEN IN THE DARK.
YOU CAN WRITE IN ABSOLUTE BLACKNESS...
...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE WROTE OVER IT BY MISTAKE.
BUT THE PART AT THE END REMAINS UNALTERED.
I... DON'T HAVE PARENTS...
...A RECORD OF MY BIRTH...

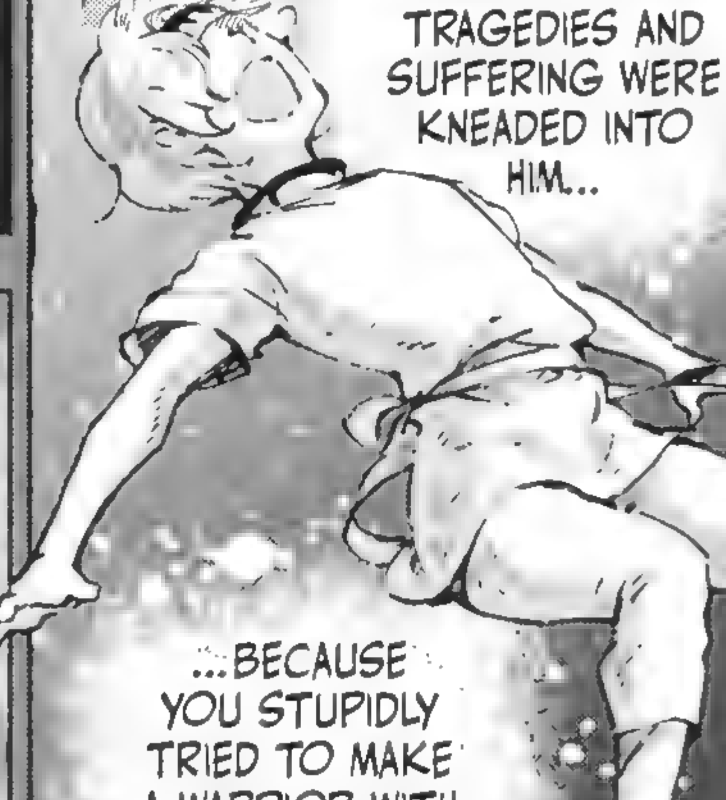

WHO ON EARTH WOULD HAVE WRITTEN THAT?
GASP
TAISHA, WERE YOU NAPPING?
YOU LOOK SAD.

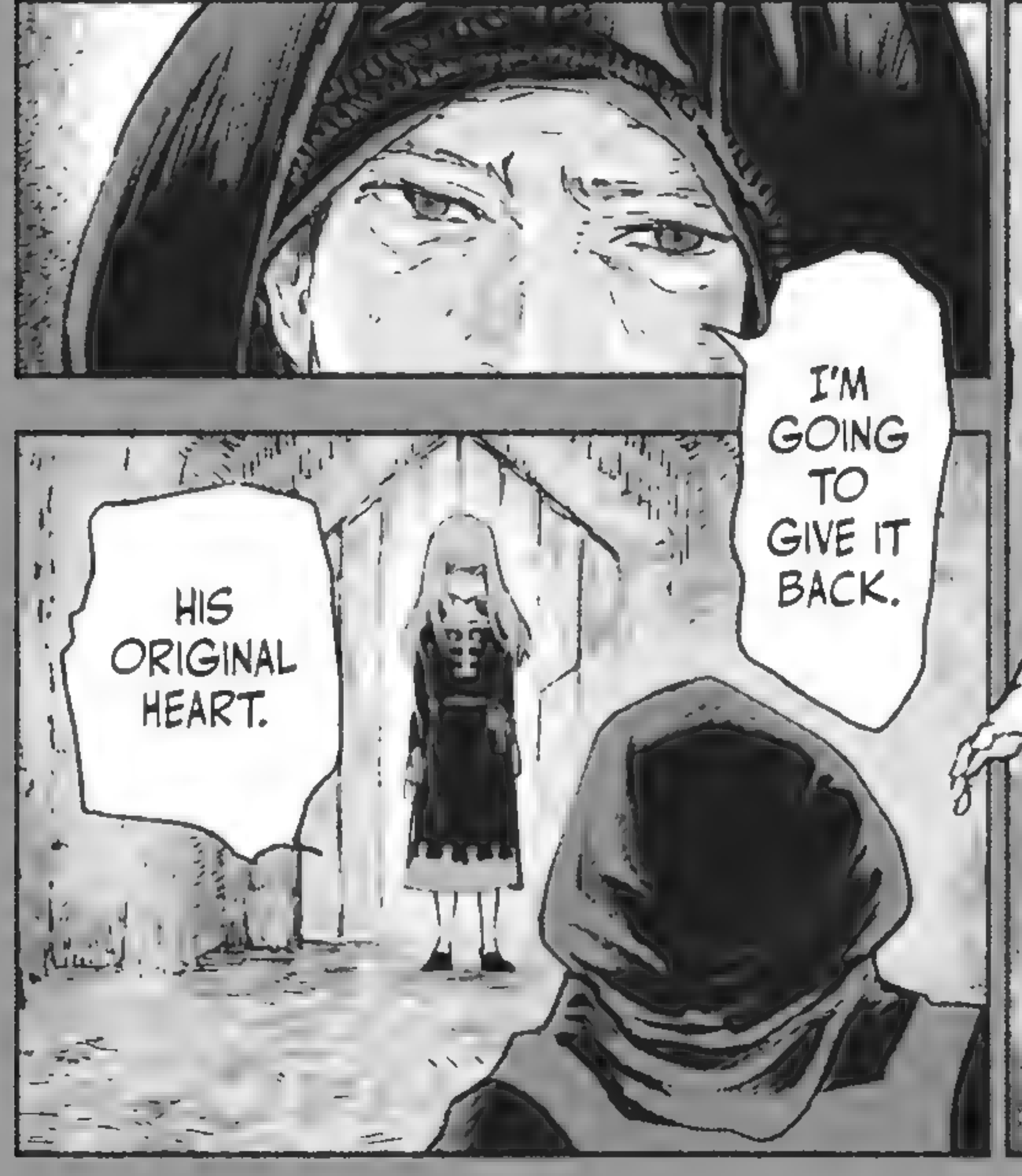

WHO ARE YOU?
YOU'RE NOT NERI.


I'M AIMA.
I WAS BORN AND CAME TO CONSCIOUS-NESS...

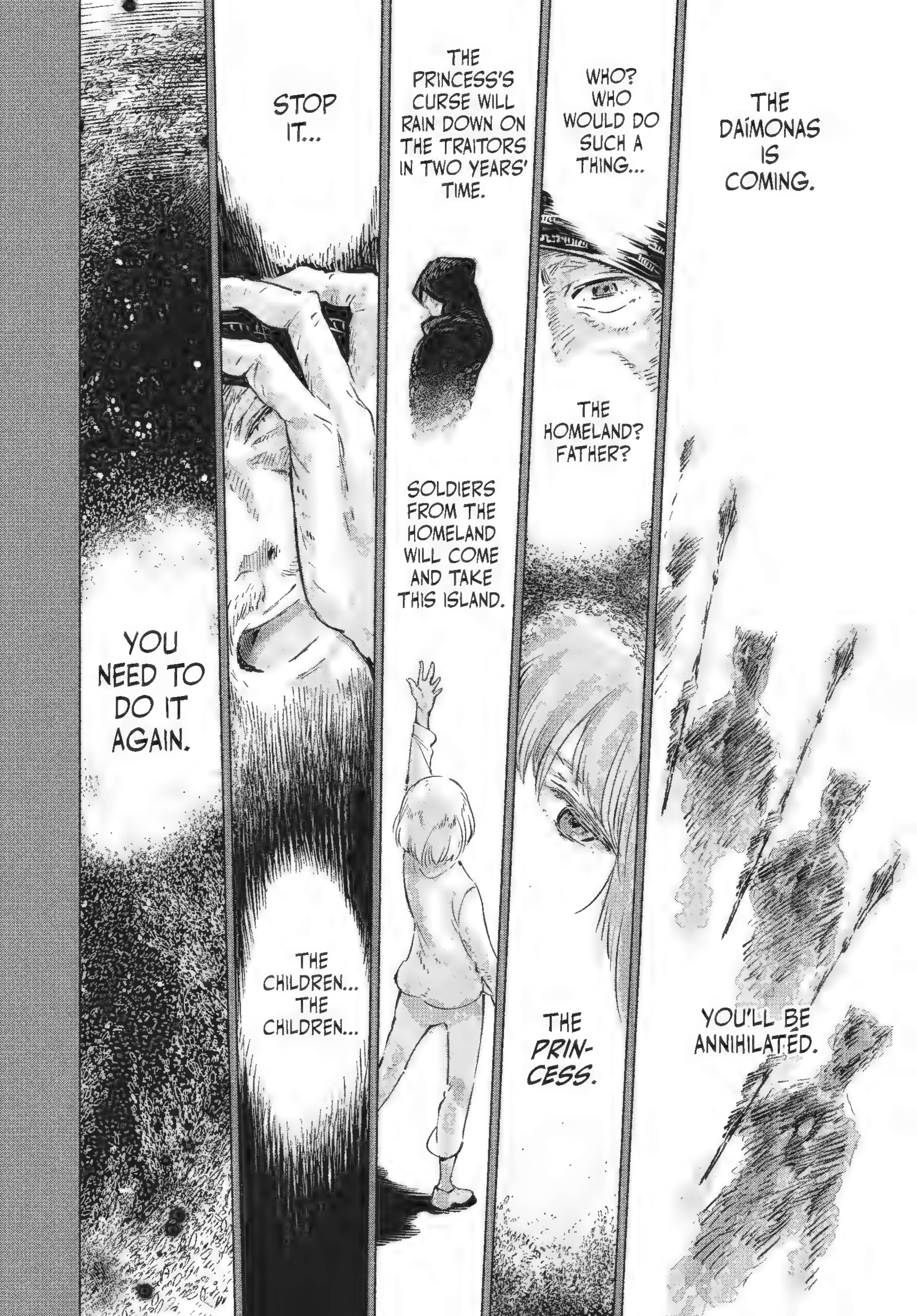

...WHEN YOU EXPERI-MENTED ON THAT BOY.


THAT BOY'S HEART IS SCAT-TERED...
...AND IS STILL GOING ROUND AND ROUND OUT THERE SOMEWHERE.


IN EXCHANGE, THE SASA OF OTHER PEOPLE'S TRAGEDIES AND SUFFERING WERE KNEADED INTO HIM...
...BECAUSE YOU STUPIDLY TRIED TO MAKE A WARRIOR WITH NOTHING BUT DREAMS TO LEAD YOU.


I'M GOING TO GIVE IT BACK.
HIS ORIGINAL HEART.


YOU TOOK HIS LOVE FOR HIS MOTHER AND ALL THE OTHERS.
NO-
WE'RE THE ONES WHO TOOK IT.
IF YOU WISH FOR POWER...
...IF YOU TRY AND CREATE A CLAY DOLL...
...IT WILL ONLY END IN TRAGEDY.
...?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
IT'S THE OPPOSITE.
THAT CLAY DOLL... IF YOU DON'T CREATE A DAÍMONAS FOR FÁLAINA, TRAGEDY WILL COME.
STOP ...


THE DAÍMONAS IS COMING.
YOU'LL BE ANNIHILATED.
WHO? WHO WOULD DO SUCH A THING...
THE HOMELAND? FATHER?
THE *PRIN-CESS.*
THE PRINCESS'S CURSE WILL RAIN DOWN ON THE TRAITORS IN TWO YEARS' TIME.
SOLDIERS FROM THE HOMELAND WILL COME AND TAKE THIS ISLAND.
STOP IT...
THE CHILDREN... THE CHILDREN...
YOU NEED TO DO IT AGAIN.


YOU NEED TO CREATE A WARRIOR WHO WILL PROTECT EVERY-ONE...
A *REAL* ONE.
AFTER YOU TELL THE ELDERS ABOUT THIS PLAN...
OH... OH?
...YOU CAN REST.
DON'T WORRY, THIS TIME I'LL OVER-SEE THE WHOLE THING.
ALL YOU NEED IS TO GIVE ME A HUMAN WHO WILL PROVIDE SASA.
YOU DON'T NEED TO SEE THE SCARY PARTS.
IT'S NOT MIDEN'S FAULT.
FROM NOW ON, ONLY IN MY DREAMS...

WE CANNOT SEE THE EXACT SHAPE OF THE TRAGEDY THAT WILL BEFALL THIS ISLAND.

BUT WE AND THE ELDEST ...

...WANT TO PROTECT THE MUD WHALE AND OUR PEOPLE.

THAT IS ALL.

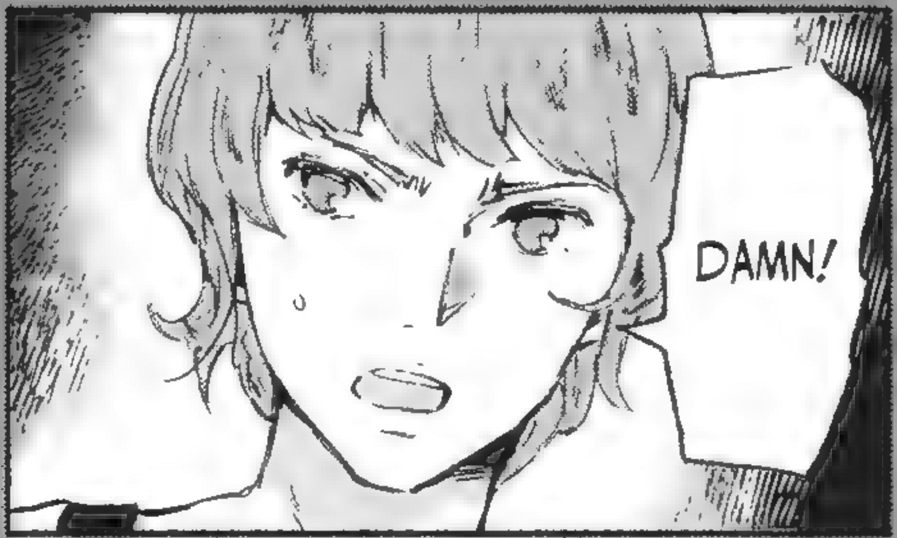
BYAKU-ROKU GAVE ME DIREC-TIONS TO THE ROOM.

YOU JUST NEED TO ACT ACCORDING TO THE ORACLE FROM THE ELDEST.

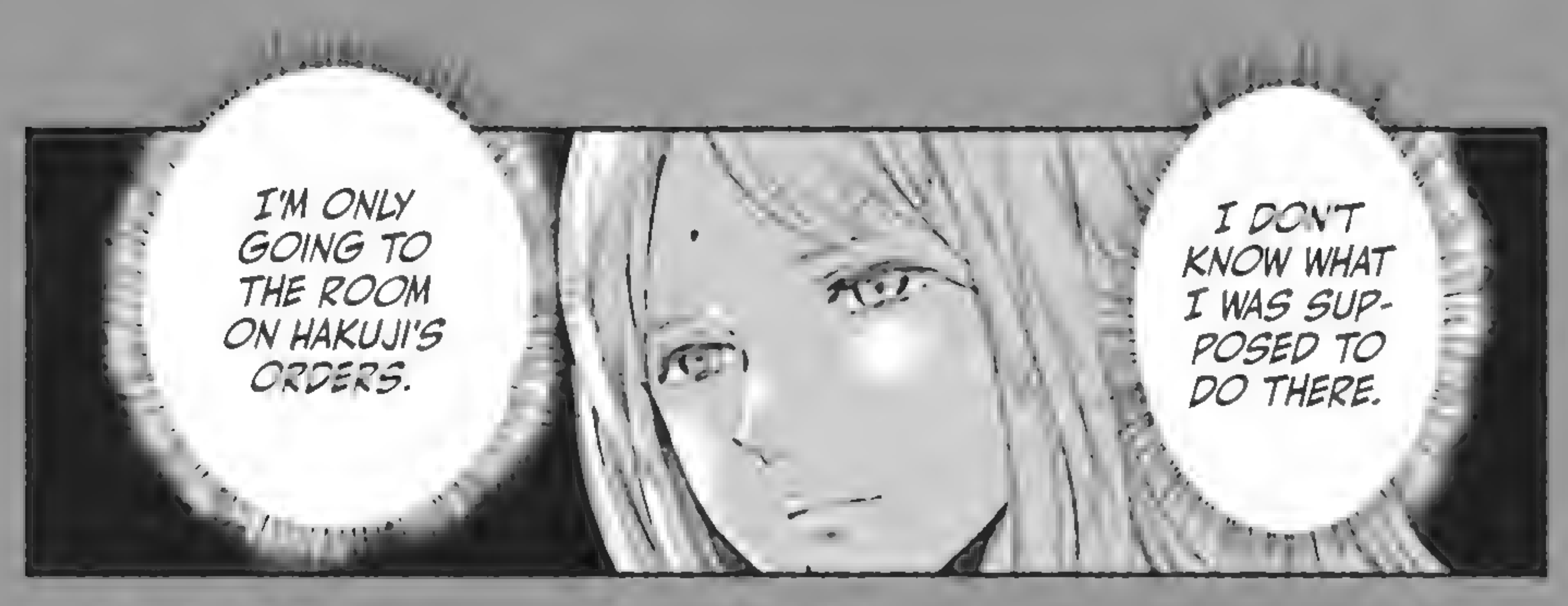
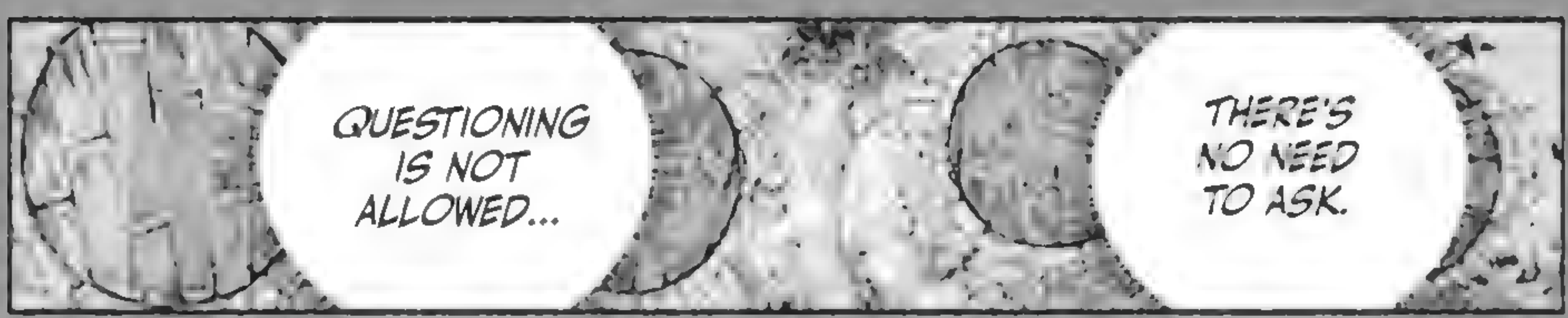
ALL RIGHT.

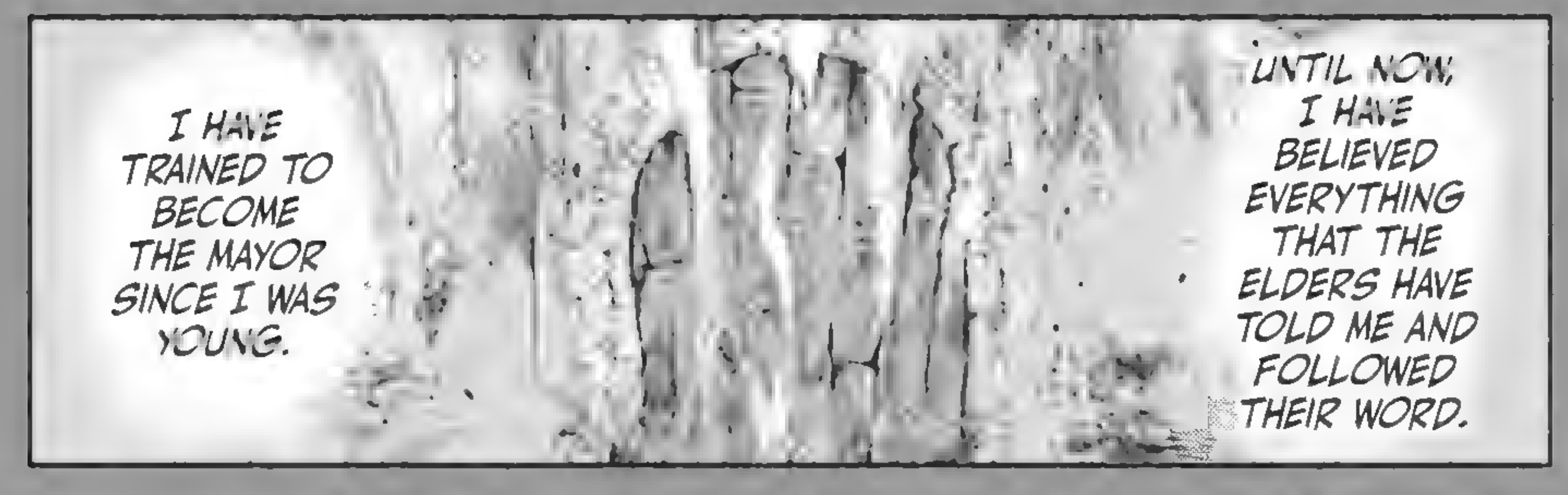







I HEARD ABOUT THE ENTRANCE FROM HAKUJI.
AT THE BASE OF THE SECOND TOWER, BEHIND THE KAMUTA BUSHES...
...THERE IS A ROUND DOOR COVERED BY SAND.
THE PASSAGEWAY INSIDE WAS FILLED WITH SAND UP TO MY KNEES...
...AND IT WAS BETTER TO GO IN BAREFOOT.
IF IT WASN'T FOR THE MUD MOSS, IT WOULD BE PITCH BLACK.
THE PATH CONTINUES DOWNHILL, UNDER-GROUND.
I WONDER WHO CREATED THIS MAZE?
AND...


I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WAS SUP-POSED TO DO THERE.
I'M ONLY GOING TO THE ROOM ON HAKUJI'S ORDERS.

THERE'S NO NEED TO ASK.
QUESTIONING IS NOT ALLOWED...

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ISLAND...
...I NEVER OBJECT TO ANY-THING.

UNTIL NOW, I HAVE BELIEVED EVERYTHING THAT THE ELDERS HAVE TOLD ME AND FOLLOWED THEIR WORD.
I HAVE TRAINED TO BECOME THE MAYOR SINCE I WAS YOUNG.

SO THAT I CAN BE A WELL-MADE DOLL.
GASP


WHAT IS THIS...?
THE RECORDS COVERING THE WALLS...
THEY'RE THE SAME AS MY DREAMS.
DÝO ...!
YOU WERE REAL.
THERE'S FRESH PAPER AND INK...
SOMEONE TRIED TO WRITE SOME-THING.
HA HA!
!


IT'S UTTERLY BLACK IN HERE...
WHO IS IT?!
WHO TURNED OFF THE MUD MOSS LIGHTS?
HUMANS FEAR DARKNESS.
I SHUT DOWN ANY EXCESS INFORMATION...
...SO THAT YOU CAN HEAR ME BETTER...
FOR MANY DAYS...
...YOU AND I WILL BE TOGETHER IN THIS DARKNESS.
I WAS SHUT IN HERE.
WITHOUT ANY LIGHT.
WATER DROPLETS CARRYING SMALL AMOUNTS OF NECTAR FELL ON ME.
THAT WAS THE ONLY THING I ATE OR DRANK.
IT WAS PROBABLY FROM THE TREE IN THE ROOM.


I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY DAYS I WAS HERE.
THE GIRL'S VOICE SPOKE TO ME THE WHOLE TIME.
I...
...UNDERSTAND YOU.
YOU WEREN'T TOLD ANYTHING. YOU WERE SENT IN HERE BY YOURSELF.
YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A TOOL TO THE ELDERS.
I KNOW.
I'VE ALWAYS HAD TO BEHAVE AS AN IDEAL OF THE CITIZENS.
THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU'RE A PUPPET.
YOU CAN'T LIVE FREELY FOR YOURSELF.
IT'S ALL FOR THE ISLAND.
FOR THIS TINY LITTLE ISLAND.







STOP IT!

DON'T WORRY...

I'LL ERASE YOUR MEMORIES LATER, LITTLE BY LITTLE.

IN A FEW DAYS, YOU'LL HAVE FORGOTTEN THE WHOLE THING.

YOU JUST NEED TO BE HONEST RIGHT NOW.

THEN I CAN LET YOU OUT OF THIS ROOM.

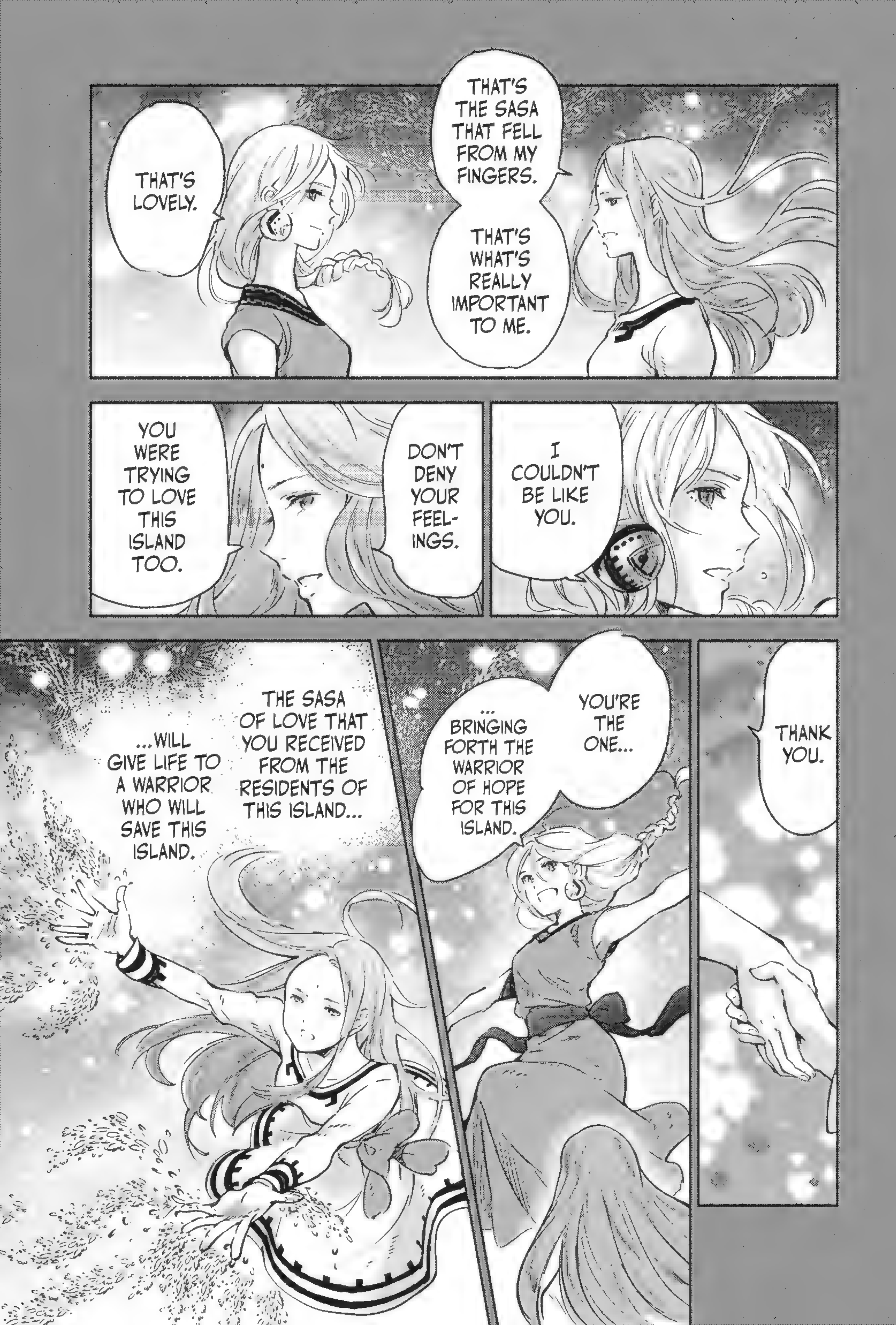
THERE'S NO NEED TO DECEIVE YOUR HEART.


YOU'RE ALLOWED TO CURSE THIS ISLAND...
... FIERCELY...
...FURI-OUSLY.
YOU...
...CAN CURSE THIS ISLAND BETTER THAN ANYONE!
COME ON...
COME ON!
GIVE ME...
...YOUR SASA!!

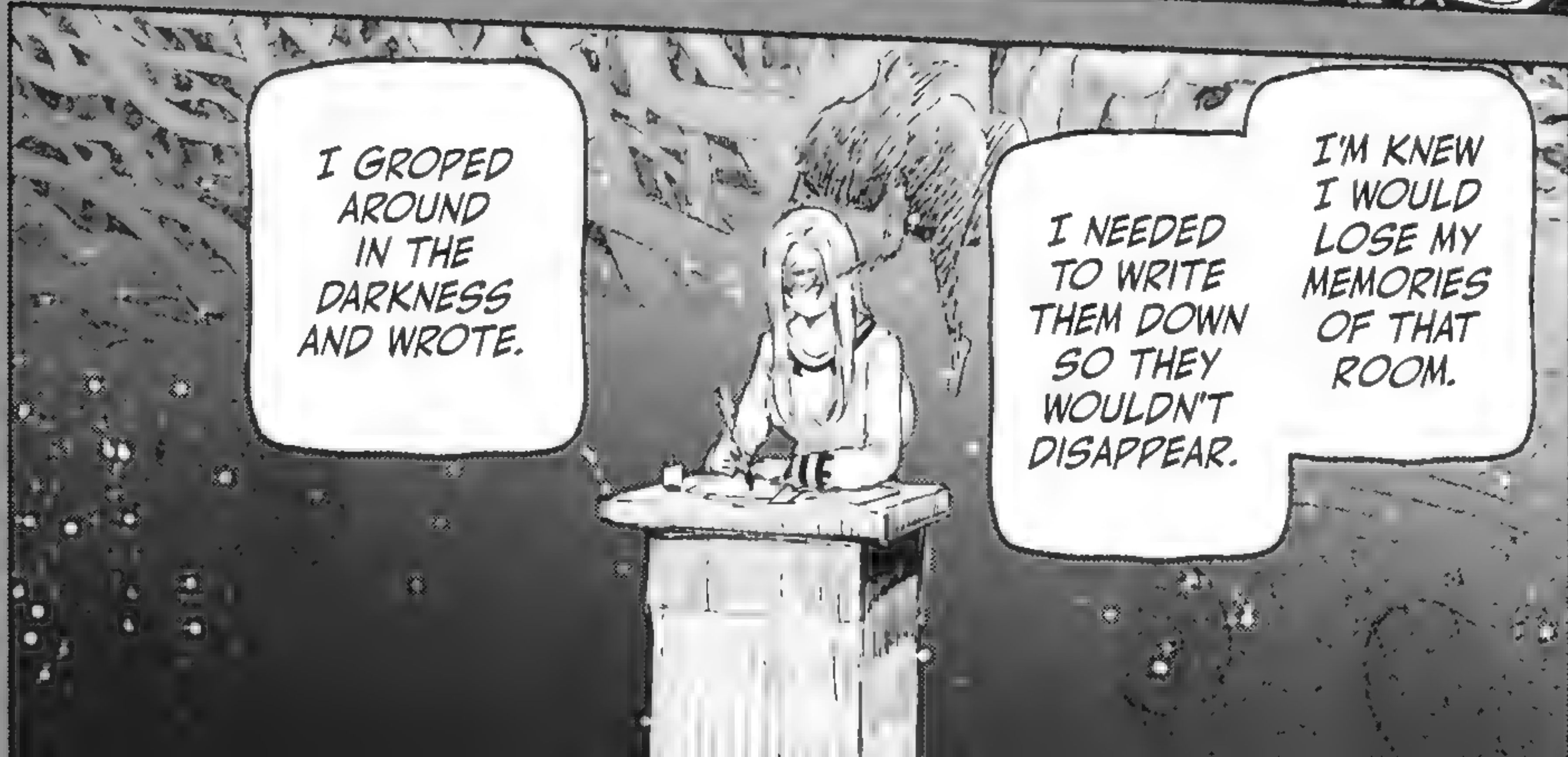


?!
WHAT ...
GASP
WHAT UNUSUAL SASA...
IT'S SO WARM.
DŸO.


I NEVER IMAGINED SASA COULD BE LIKE THIS.
I DIDN'T KNOW EITHER.
I DID CURSE THE LONELINESS AND INCONVENIENCE OF MY LIFE.
AND I'M GOING TO CONTINUE TO LIVE WITH THESE EMOTIONS.
I WON'T FORGET MY RESENTMENT, BUT I'M GOING TO FACE WHAT'S IMPORTANT.
WHEN I THOUGHT THAT, I REALIZED ...
...THAT THIS WORLD HAS ALWAYS BEEN BESIDE ME.
THE EVERYONE'S MODEST HAPPINESS ...
...THEIR MOMENTS OF WARMTH AND LOVE...
THOSE MEMORIES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN NEAR ME...
...AND WILL ALWAYS BE, FROM NOW ON.


THAT'S THE SASA THAT FELL FROM MY FINGERS.
THAT'S WHAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT TO ME.
THAT'S LOVELY.
I COULDN'T BE LIKE YOU.
DON'T DENY YOUR FEEL-INGS.
YOU WERE TRYING TO LOVE THIS ISLAND TOO.
THANK YOU.
YOU'RE THE ONE...
...BRINGING FORTH THE WARRIOR OF HOPE FOR THIS ISLAND.
THE SASA OF LOVE THAT YOU RECEIVED FROM THE RESIDENTS OF THIS ISLAND...
...WILL GIVE LIFE TO A WARRIOR WHO WILL SAVE THIS ISLAND.

HE WAS BORN IN THIS ROOM.




"I WAS ENVELOPED IN THE PERPETUAL HAPPINESS AND LOVE THAT COVERS THIS ISLAND."
"AND HE WAS BORN OF THAT EMOTION."
THAT'S WHAT IT SAYS.
IT'S JUST THIS LAST BIT, BUT YOU CAN READ IT CLEARLY.
I KNEW FOR A LONG TIME...
...THAT I HAD TO TELL YOU ABOUT THIS.
BUT...
...I KEPT YOU WAITING UNTIL THE SITUATION WE'RE IN NOW.

MY FEELINGS FOR YOU...

...HAVE ALWAYS BEEN COMPLICATED.

ESPECIALLY AS YOU GREW UP AND BECAME MORE HUMAN.











...AREN'T A CURSED MONSTER AT ALL.

YOU WERE BORN FROM THE LOVE THAT SUFFUSES THE MUD WHALE.

YOU ARE A SYMBOL OF HOPE.




OUNI.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY.
OUNI!
ARCHIVIST?!
YOU FINALLY NOTICED ME.
?!
I WAS WATCHING...
...THAT THING IN MIDÉN'S ROOM.
IT'S JUST LIKE I THOUGHT.


OUNI, YOU'RE OUR HERO.
YOU'RE OUR WARRIOR OF HOPE.
THAT'S WHY YOU SAVED US SO MANY TIMES.
THANK YOU...
...FOR BEING BORN ON THE MUD WHALE, OUNI! THANK YOU.
YOU IDIOT!
THAT'S ENOUGH.
I'M ON THE ENEMY WARSHIP RIGHT NOW.
WE'LL TRY HARD TO SAVE THE MUD WHALE TOO.

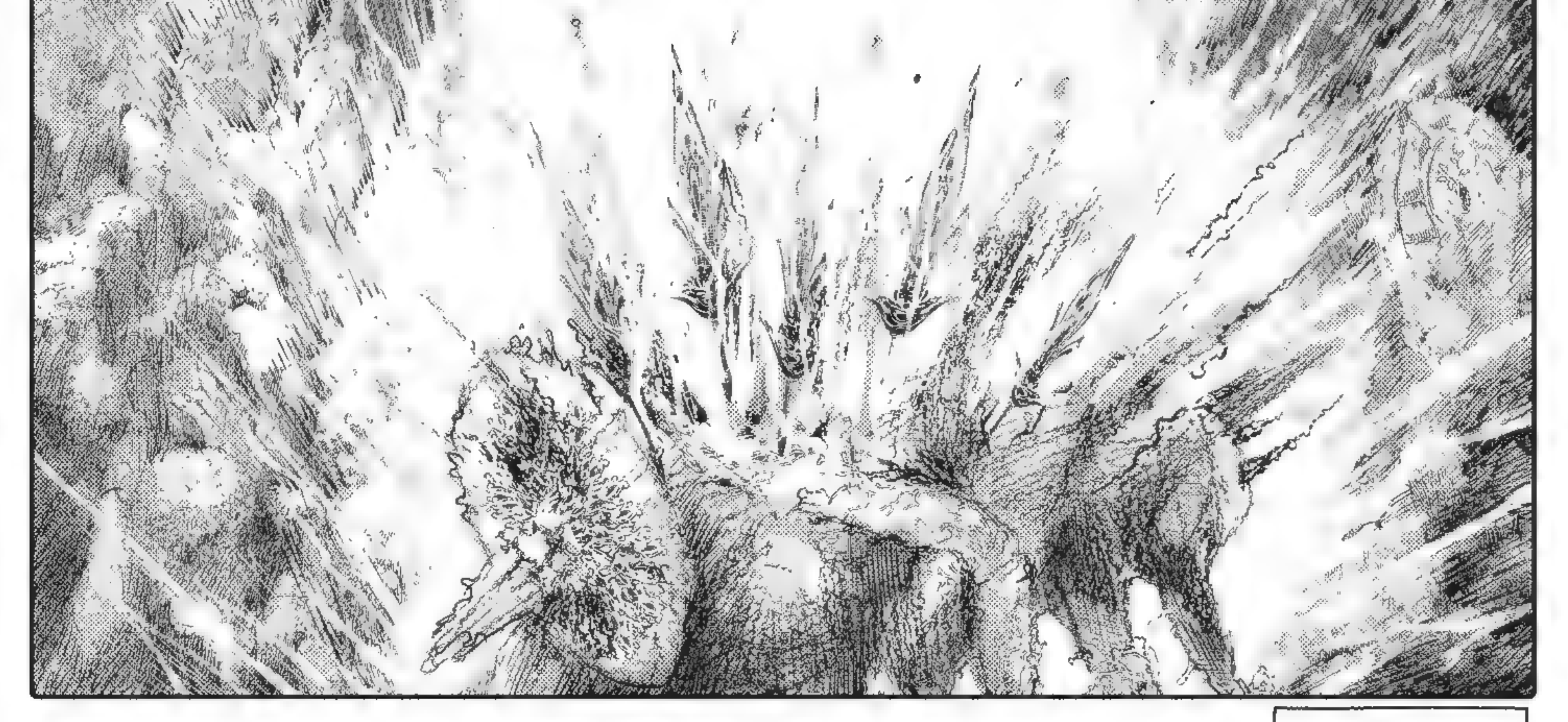

SO DESTROY THE MONSTER NOUS!
THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU GO DESTROY ...
...THE MONSTER THAT'S EATING US.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN.
IF I DESTROY IT...
...WILL YOU BE OKAY?
I WON'T SLOW YOU DOWN.
WE'RE LEAVING TOGETH-ER.
OF COURSE.


DESTROY THE CURSE ON THIS ISLAND.
MUD MOSS.


HIS AURA IS SHAPED LIKE SWORDS...
OH.
I'VE NEVER SEEN THAT BEFORE!


SUOU?






The swords of light that tore through the monster...


...could be seen all over the Mud Whale.


At the same time, the Nous hands that had been running rampant over the island...

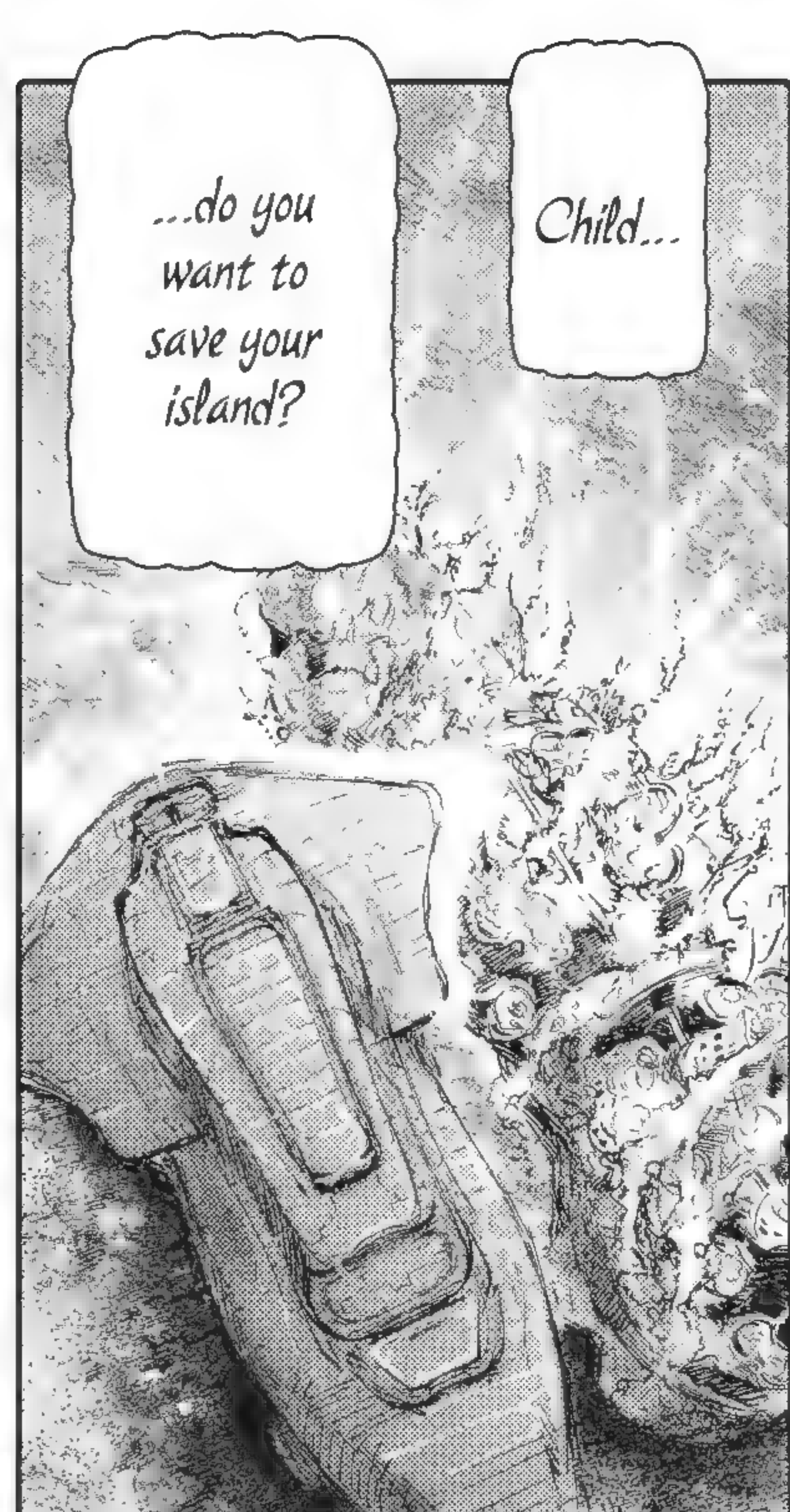

SUOU...


...flickered...
...and slowed their expansion.


GASP!



The Second Birth - The End-







There is a way that you can influence the situation.

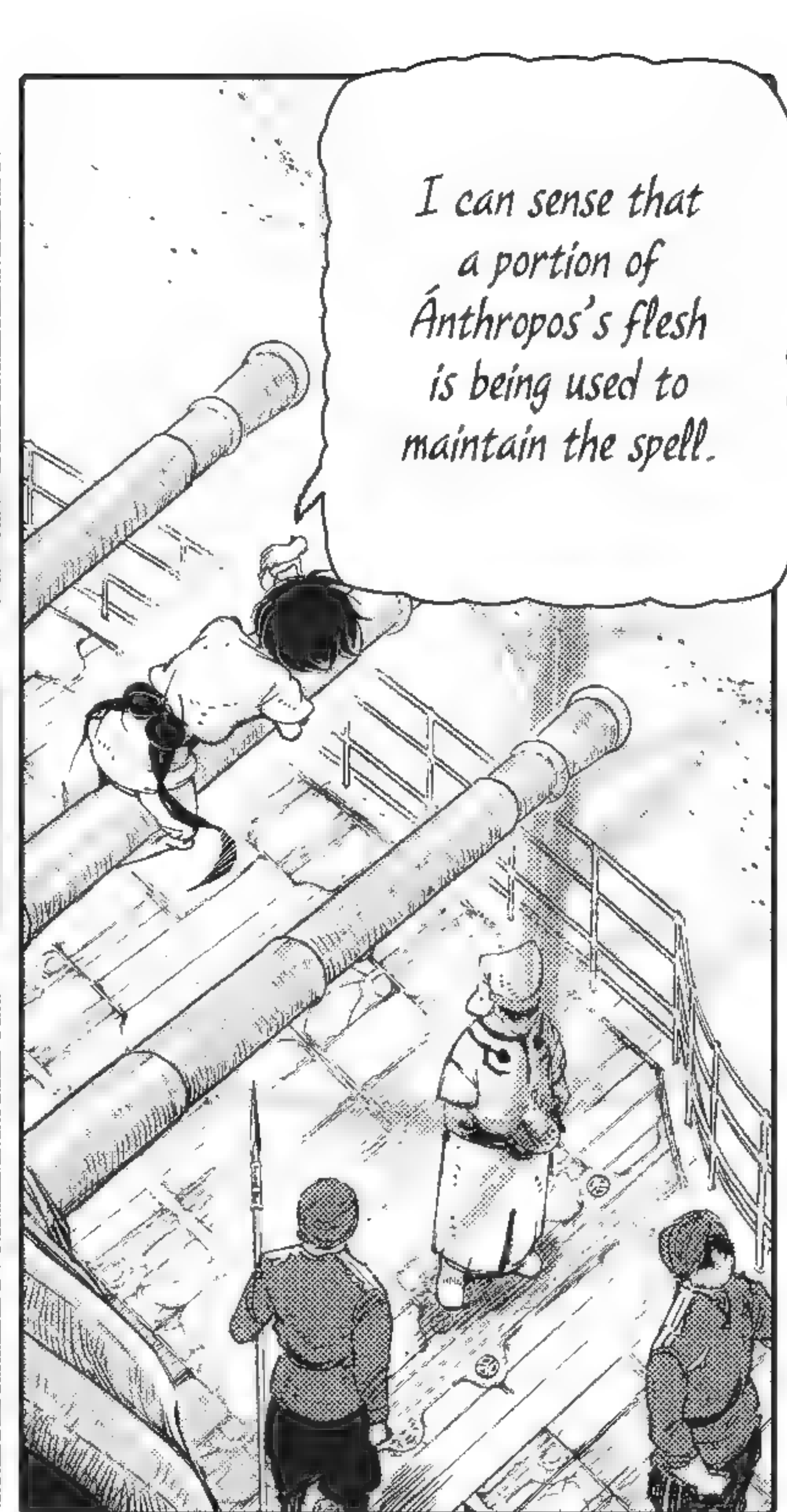
A spell has been cast on this ship...

...that keeps you and Orca from using your thymia.

But you can break the barrier.

NOD

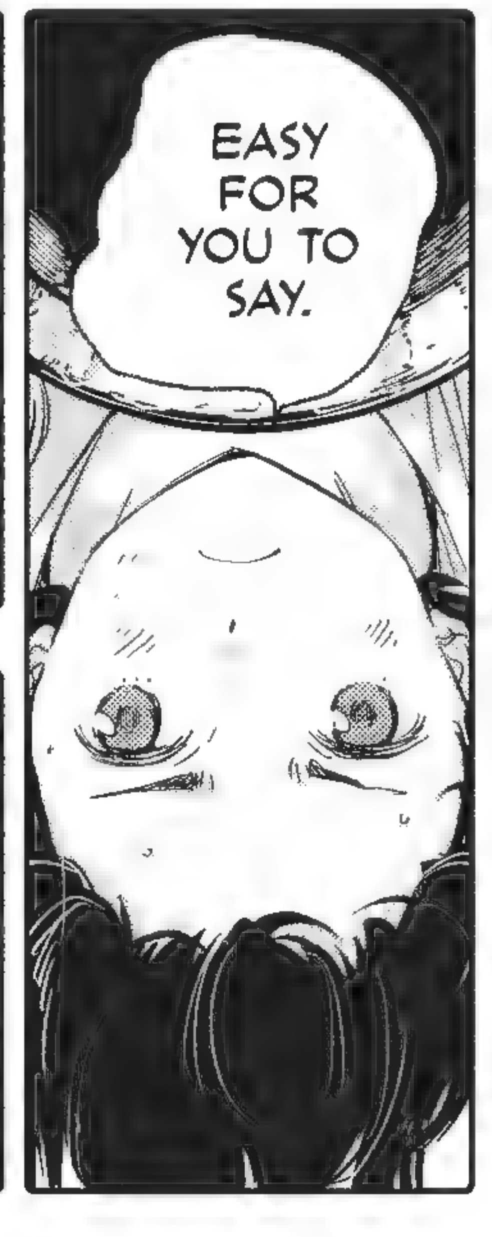

Chapter 72
The Red Rebellion
I'M GOING TO GIVE IT MY ALL...
...SO OUNI, COMMANDER, YOU TWO GET BACK SAFELY!


I can sense that a portion of Ánthropos's flesh is being used to maintain the spell.

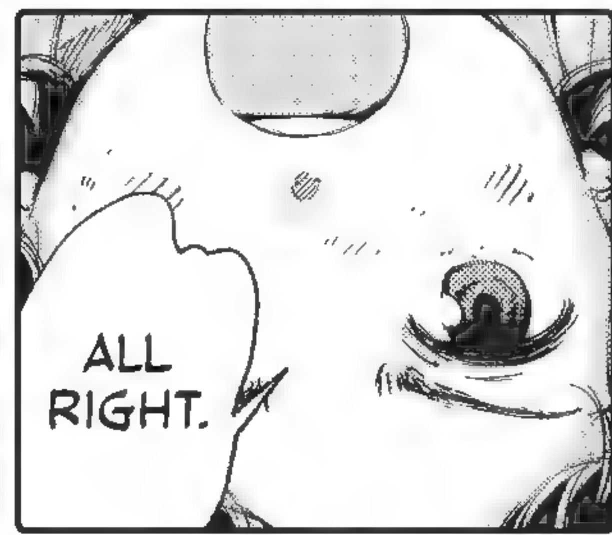

There are four priests who cast the spell.
That number can be handled.


That flabby thing.
That's it.

You only need to destroy the flabby thing. Just break it and run.
BUT HE HAS A GUARD.


EASY FOR YOU TO SAY.


FWIP
FWIP


ALL RIGHT.



YANK

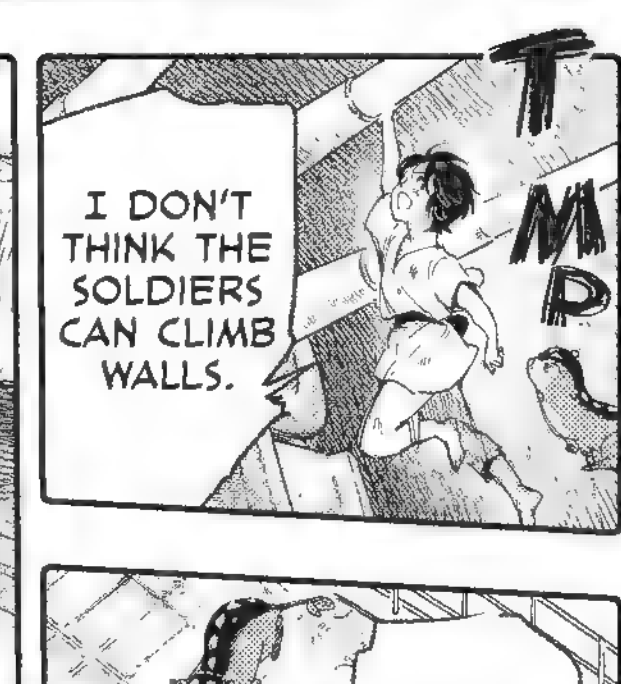
KRASH

ALL RIGHT.




BOMF
BOMF


HMPH
HAMMY ?!
DID YOU COME WITH ME?


TMP
I DON'T THINK THE SOLDIERS CAN CLIMB WALLS.


KSH


LET'S GO, HAMMY!


THERE'S A TEAR IN THE SKY.
I CAN SEE THE FIFTH TOWER ON THE MUD WHALE.
WE CAN GET OUT THROUGH HERE.
IT'S SUCKING ME IN.
TUG
LET'S GO, COMMANDER.
GASP!


!!
Don't go...
...that way.
Don't go back.
Stay here.
Forever...
Let's go round and round here.


COM-
MANDER
...
SNAG
NO.
DON'T
LET
GO!
WILL YOU
REMEM-
BER?



I...
... PROBABLY HAVEN'T LOST EVERY-THING.
MY HEART, WHICH I THOUGHT WAS COMPLETELY BROKEN...
...AS A CHILD...
THMP
THMP
SIENNA? THE COMMITTEE OF ELDERS JUST TOLD ME...
...THEY WANT ME TO GET TO KNOW YOU WITH AN ENGAGEMENT IN MIND.
MARKED ALWAYS GET SET UP LIKE THIS


THEY REALLY ARE BUSY-BODIES.
!
IT'S SUCH A BOTHER.
...
IT...
IT...
... BOTHERS ME TOO.
I DON'T LIKE PEOPLE WHO CAN'T UNDERSTAND OTHER PEOPLE'S HEARTS.
EXCUSE ME.


GRAB
!
ACTUALLY ...
...I'VE CHANGED MY MIND.
HUH?
WHEN I THOUGHT I NEEDED SOMEONE...
...I WAS PROPERLY TORMENTED.


WHEN I LOST SOMEONE...
I WAS PROPERLY ...
...IN PAIN.
IN MY OWN WAY...
...I LOVED THIS ISLAND.
I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER THAT.
AND I'M GOING TO PROVE IT NOW.


SHUAN!!


KWSSH
THE MONSTER IS SHRINKING.
HEY.
OH.
BWAAA
OUNI!


OUNI, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
SHUAN ...
IT'S CHANGED SHAPE, AND COLOR.
IT'S RED.
LIKE BLOOD.
GYUU


SWISH
IT'S HEADING FOR THE ENEMY SHIP.
SHWA
IT'S GETTING AWAY!
SHUAN'S IN THERE...
WAIT... DON'T TAKE HIM WITH YOU!

ROCHA... LIZO.
GATA!
SUOU!


WHAT'S GOING ON?
FWOOOO
THE CHÉRI IS EATING AWAY AT GERÁKI!
THE NEW WEAPON THAT WAS DEPLOYED TO FÁLAINA...
...HAS COME BACK TO GERÁKI!
SALINKÁRI...
...IT'S AN EMERGENCY!
THE RED NOUS...
...
THAT CAN'T BE...
I THOUGHT OUR WARSHIP COULD CONTROL IT!





SHNK

ORCA!


THUD
I'LL START BY BREAKING YOUR WIFE...
...IN FRONT OF YOU.
HYUUUU
ITIÁ!


YANK
CHAKURO!


ORCA...
...YOU CAN USE YOUR THYMIA!
I DESTROYED THE BARRIER SPELLS.


WAIT...
...I'LL GET THIS OFF.


I CAN DO IT MYSELF.
HYUUU
KLAK


SHWA
KACHK


SHK
TMP


HYUUU
COM-MANDER...
...PLEASE EVACUATE!
THUNK
THUNK


HEH...
IT'S FUTILE.
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS...
...TO GERÁKI OR TO ME...

YOU CAN'T SAVE THAT ISLAND.

ONCE THE CHÉRI HAS INFECTED IT, EVERYTHING WILL GET EATEN UP.

YOUR PARADISE ...

...YOUR SISTER'S PARADISE...

...WILL CRUMBLE.

THAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN YOUR FATE.




THWNK
THD
SALIN-
KÁRI...

ORCA!

THMP

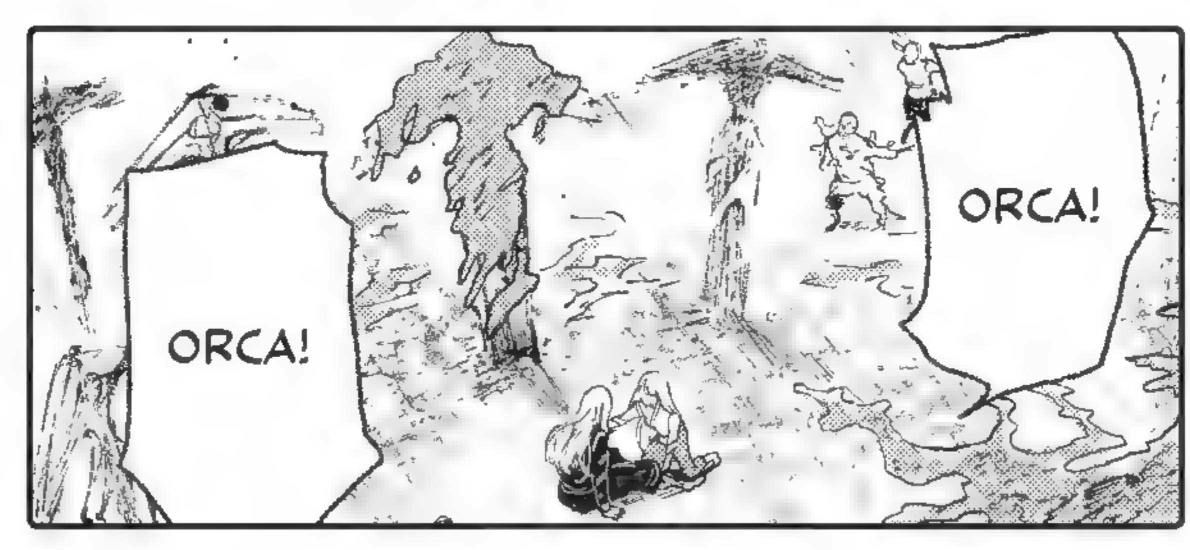
SLMP

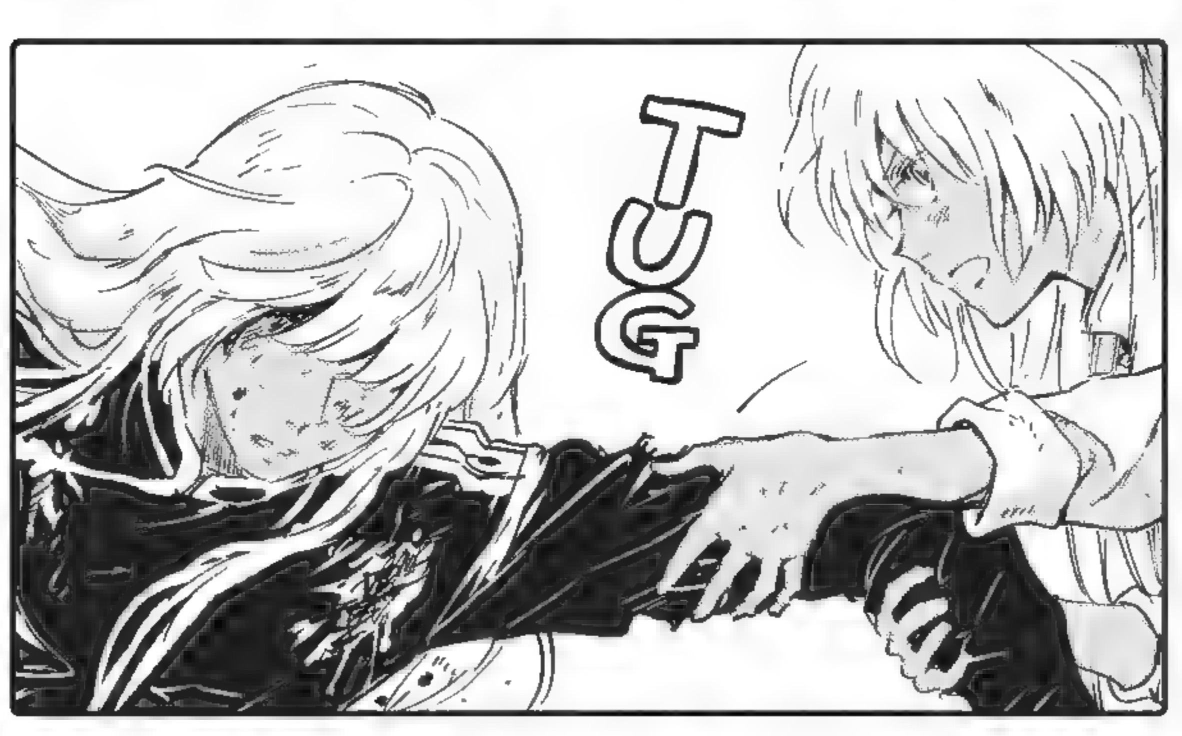

ITIÁ!



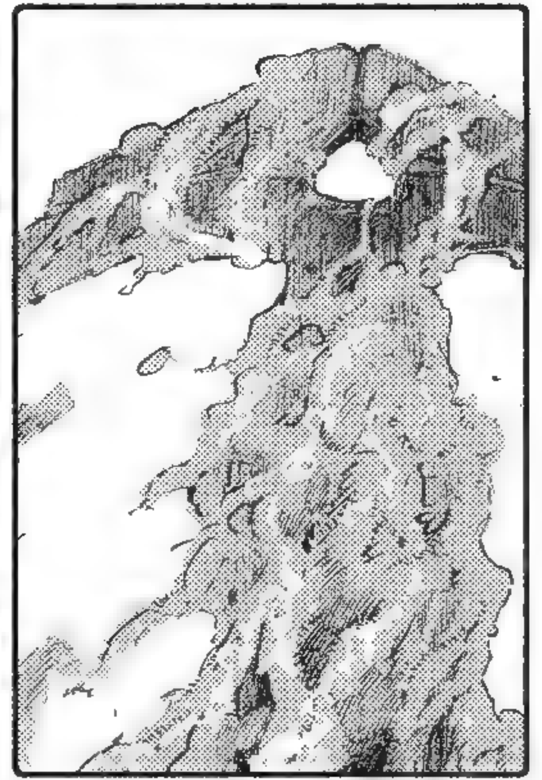

?
IT'S AVOIDING US?


WHAT IS...
...THIS RED NOUS?

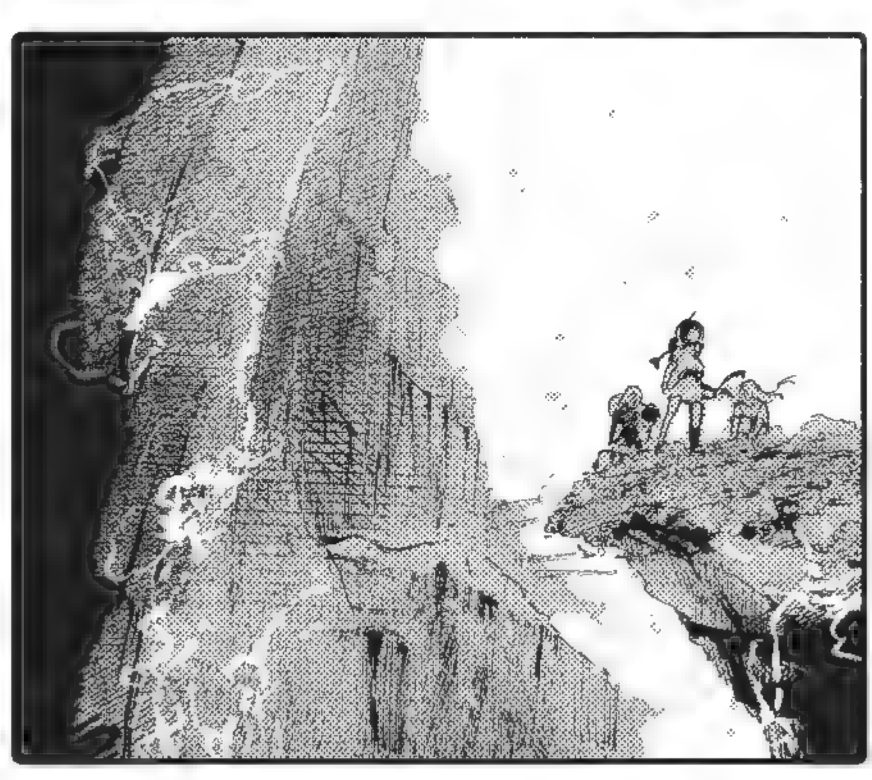

ORCA!
ORCA!

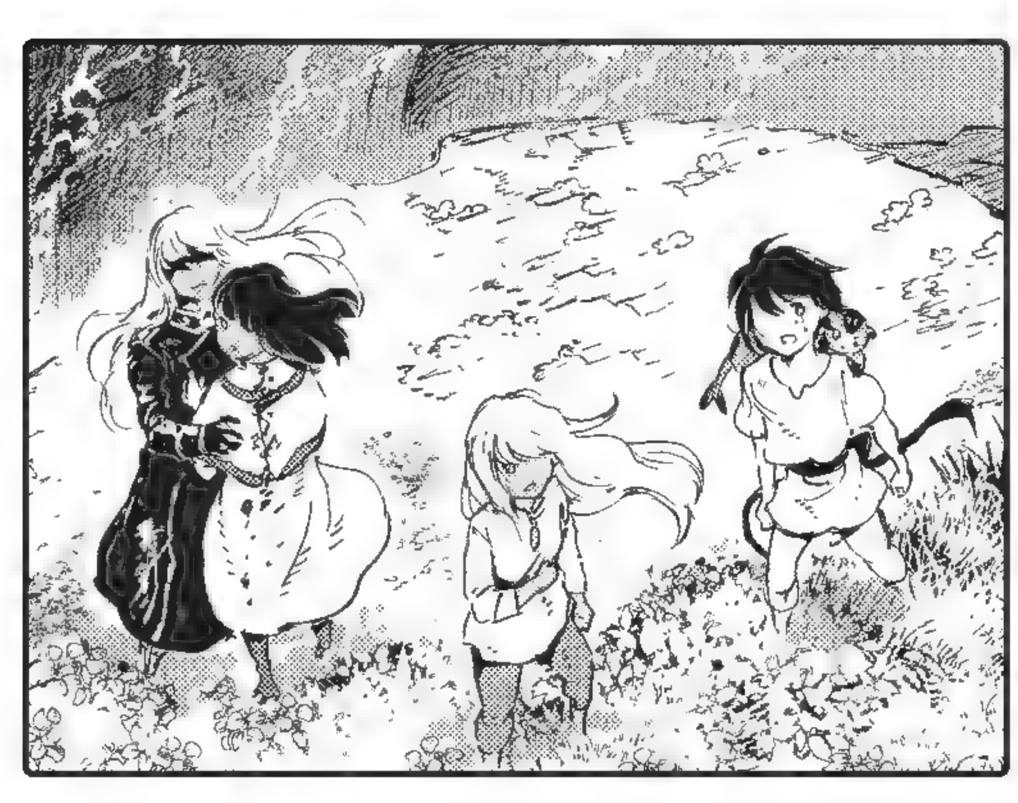

TUG

HURRY, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.

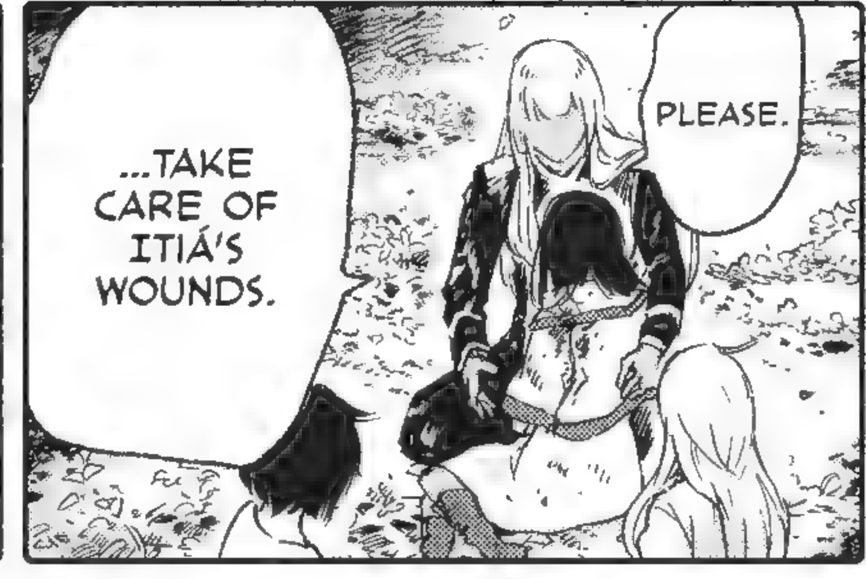






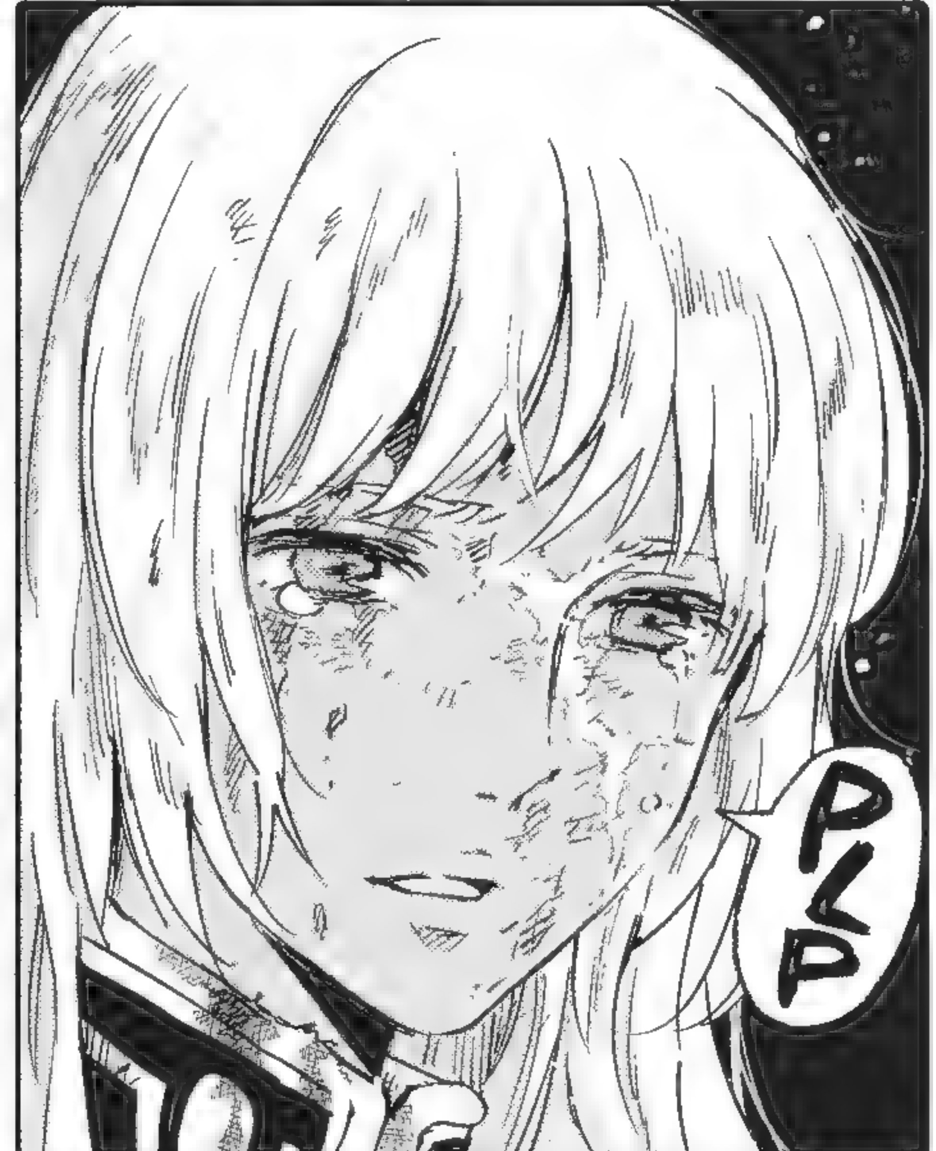



THE MUD WHALE...
THE CHÉRI IS EXPANDING EVEN FARTHER.

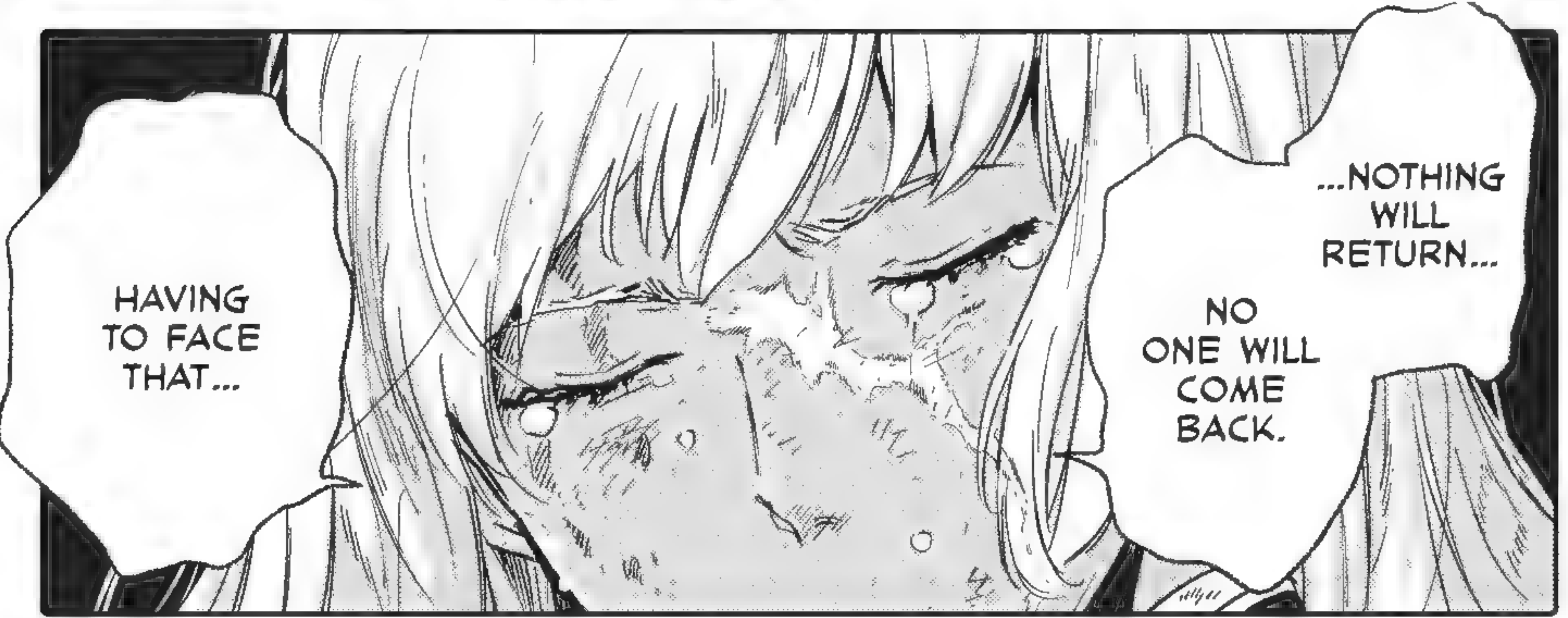

PLEASE.
...TAKE CARE OF ITIÁ'S WOUNDS.


IT'S OKAY.
YOU'RE WOUNDED TOO, ORCA.


...


PLP


ORCA...


I... WAS...
... SCARED.
EVEN IF I ERASE SALINKÁRI FROM THIS WORLD...

...NOTHING WILL RETURN...
NO ONE WILL COME BACK.
HAVING TO FACE THAT...

...TO RUN AWAY FROM THE TRUTH...
I'VE MADE ONE MISTAKE AFTER ANOTHER.

ORCA.

EVEN IF HE DISAPPEARS, NOTHING WILL CHANGE...
IF WE KEEP ON LIKE THIS, WE WILL LOSE TO HIS DARKNESS...
...AND ONLY DESPAIR WILL REMAIN.

IF WE CAN'T SAVE THIS ISLAND–

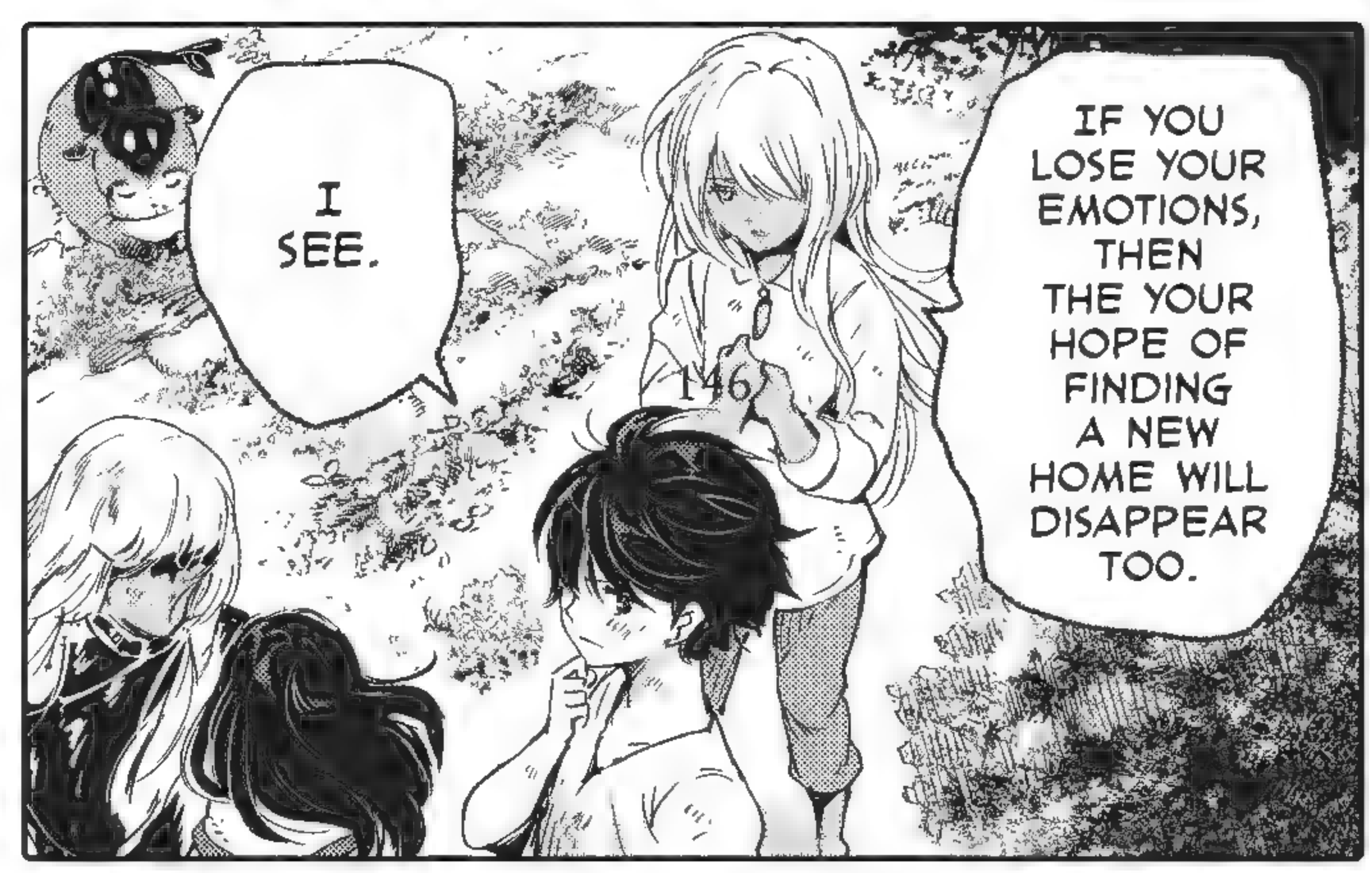


AT THIS RATE, THE MUD WHALE IS GOING TO BE SWALLOWED UP ALONG WITH GERÁKI.

WE NEED TO THINK OF SOMETHING, SOME WAY.





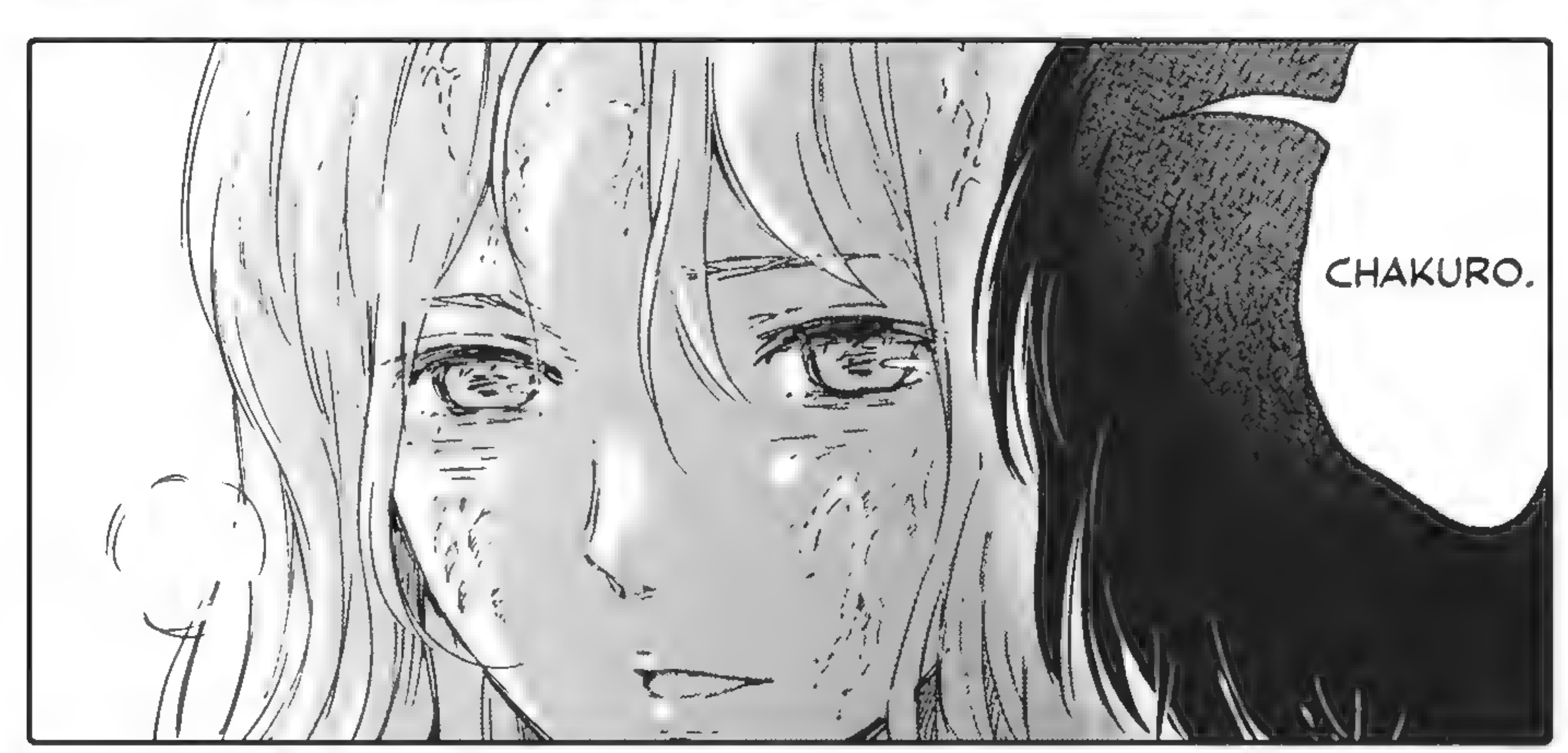




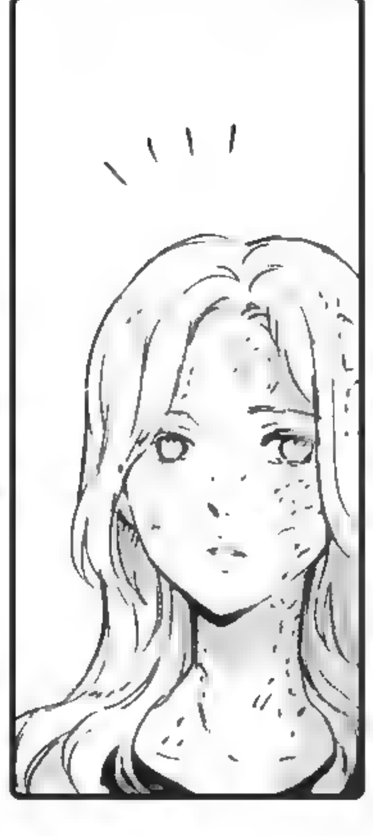

The soldiers who attacked the Mud Whale began decaying...
...scattering chéri as they disinte-grated.
The chéri that remained began to slowly eat the island.
We had no choice but to bet on a possibility.
SUOU.

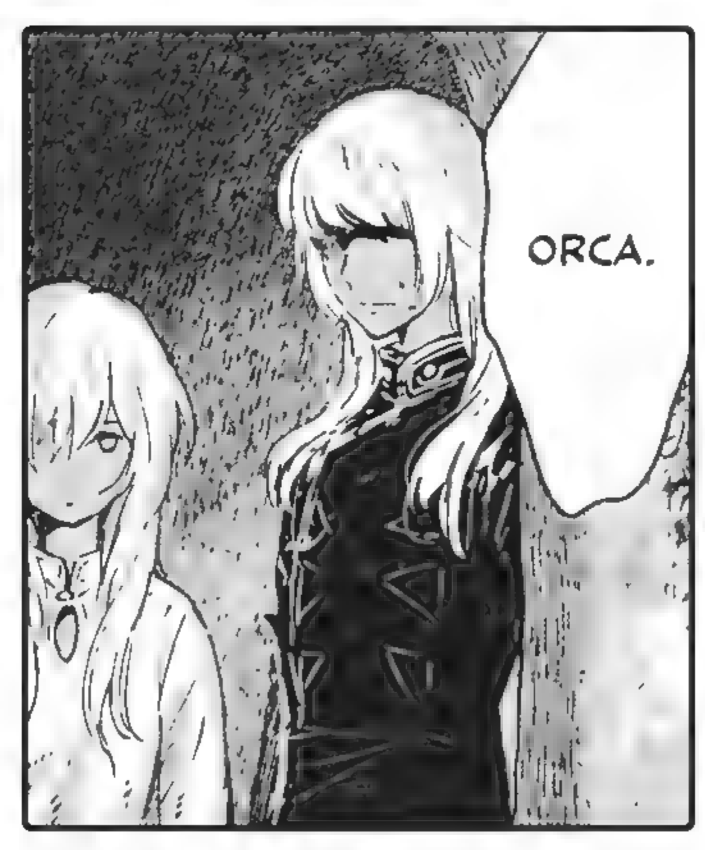

SUOU, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

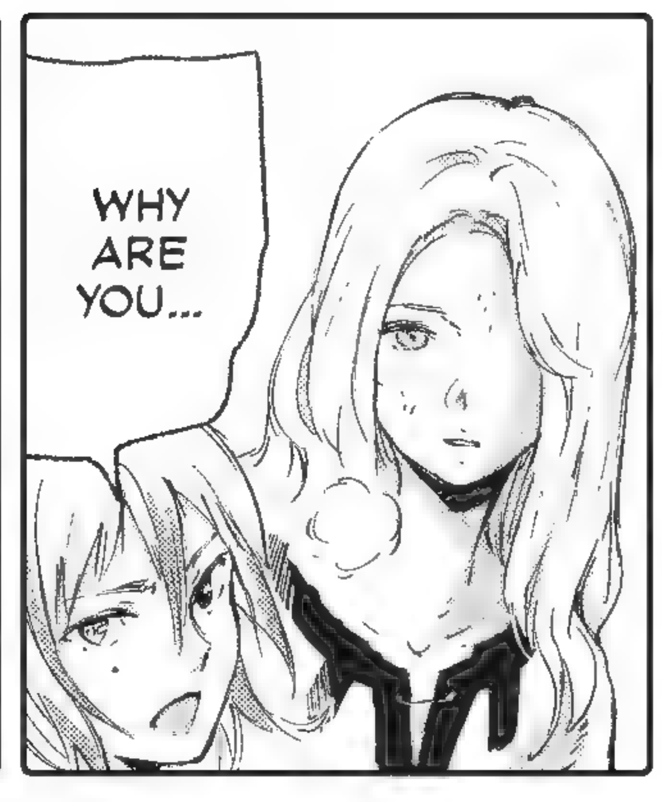

DON'T TOUCH HIM.
FOR SOME REASON, ONLY THE UNMARKED REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS AFTER THEY WERE INFECTED.


CHAKURO.

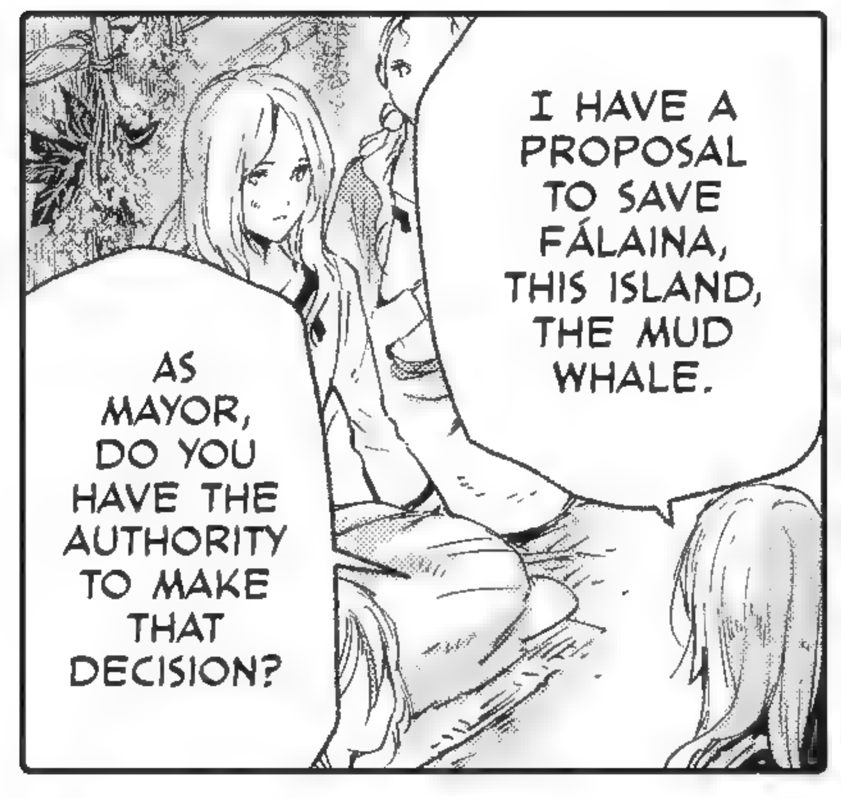

BUT HE'S STILL SUFFERING.
SUOU, WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING TO SAVE EVERYONE.

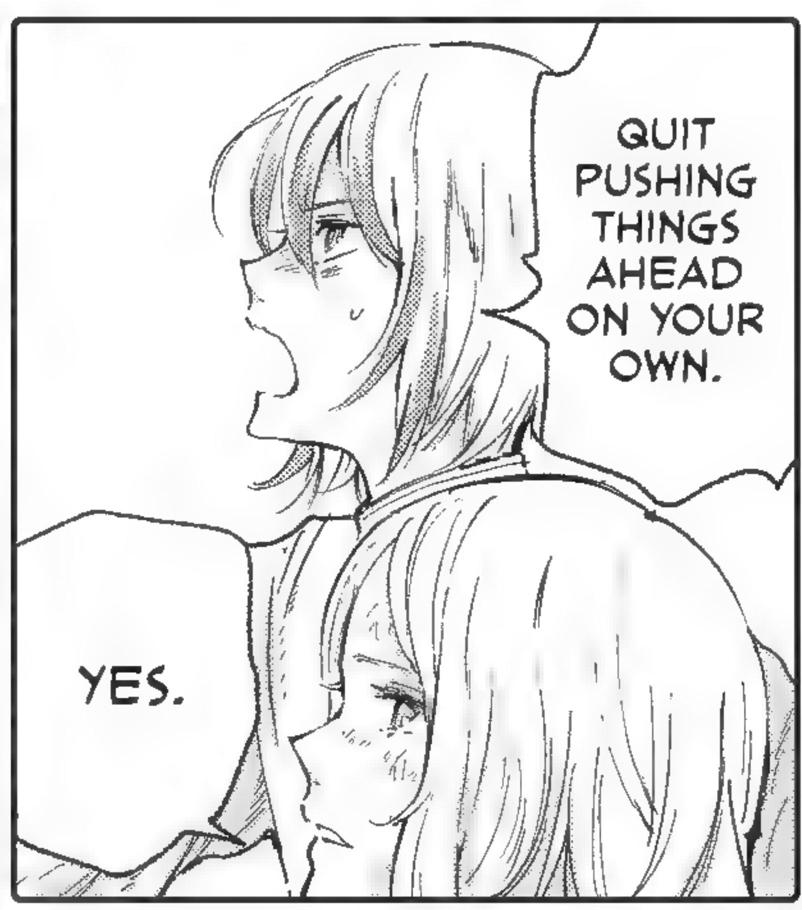



ORCA.


WHY ARE YOU...

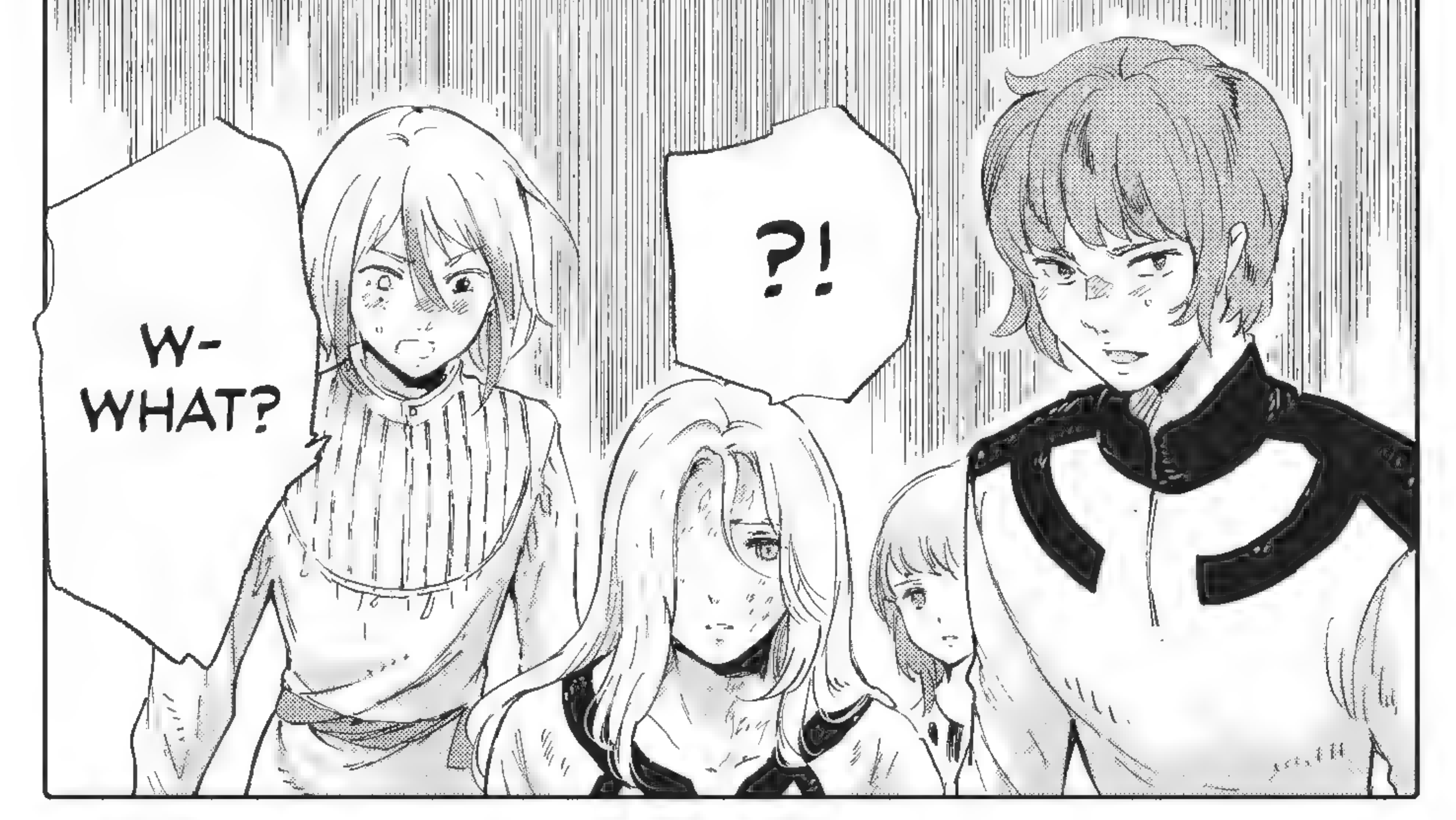

WE DON'T HAVE TIME.


I HAVE A PROPOSAL TO SAVE FÁLAINA, THIS ISLAND, THE MUD WHALE.
AS MAYOR, DO YOU HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO MAKE THAT DECISION?


QUIT PUSHING THINGS AHEAD ON YOUR OWN.
YES.


I DO.


THEN...
SUOU.
I WANT YOU TO TAKE...
...THE SAILORS FROM KARCHARÍAS ONTO THIS ISLAND.





THE CHÉRI CONSUMING THE ISLAND COMES FROM THE NOUS ON THE GERÁKI.

MOST OF THE NOUS IS STILL ON THE SHIP, AND IF *THAT* IS DAMAGED...

...THE PORTION OF THE NOUS ON THE ISLAND WILL BE DESTROYED ...

...AND WE MAY BE ABLE TO PREVENT ANY FURTHER SPREAD OF THE CHÉRI.


WE ARE GOING TO CRASH THE BATTLESHIP KARCHARÍAS INTO GERÁKI.


WE'LL DAMAGE THE ENEMY SHIP ITSELF...
...AND WEAKEN THE POWER OF THAT NOUS.


I KNOW MY BROTHER ...
...DID TERRIBLE THINGS TO EVERYONE ON THE MUD WHALE, AND HE USED IMPERIAL SOLDIERS TO DO IT.


BUT...
...CAN WE HEAD TOWARDS A NEW LAND WHILE LETTING THE PEOPLE ON KARCHARÍAS DIE?
CHA-KURO...


CAN WE ONLY LIVE BY SACRIFICING SOMEONE ELSE?
IF WE CHOOSE THAT OPTION, EVEN ONCE, I THINK WE'LL JUST BE STUCK THERE FOREVER.


NOD
LET'S BET OUR FUTURE ON THAT STRATEGY.
Once again...
...we can only steer in this new direction.
The Red Rebellion - The End-
Children of the Whales volume 17 - The End-


CHILDREN OF THE
WHALES

A Note on Names

Those who live on the Mud Whale are named after colors in a language unknown. Abi Umeda uses Japanese translations of the names, which we have maintained. Here is a list of the English equivalents for the curious.

Aijiro	pale blue
Benihi	scarlet
Buki	kerria flower (*yamabuki*)
Byakuroku	malachite mineral pigments, pale green tinged with white
Chakuro	blackish brown (*cha* = brown, *kuro* = black)
Furano	from "flannel," a soft-woven fabric traditionally made of wool
Ginshu	vermillion
Hakuji	porcelain white
Jiki	golden
Kicha	yellowish brown
Kikujin	koji mold, yellowish green
Kogare	burnt muskwood, dark reddish brown
Kuchiba	decayed-leaf brown
Masoh	cinnabar
Miru	seaweed green
Nashiji	a traditional Japanese crepe weave fabric
Neri	silk white
Nezu	mouse gray
Nibi	dark gray
Ouni	safflower red
Rasha	darkest blue, nearly black
Ro	lacquer black
Sami	light green (*asa* = light, *midori* = green)

Shikoku	purple-tinged black
Shikon	purple-tinged navy
Shinono	the color of dawn (*shinonome*)
Shuan	dark bloodred
Sienna	reddish brown
Sumi	ink black
Suou	raspberry red
Taisha	red ocher
Tobi	reddish brown like a kite's feather
Tokusa	scouring rush green
Tonoko	the color of powdered grindstone, a pale brown
Urumi	muddy gray



Mizen's room is detailed in volumes 7 and 8. This volume might be easier to understand if you go back and have a little look before you read.

—Abi Umeda

ABI UMEDA debuted as a manga creator with the one-shot "Yukokugendan" in *Weekly Shonen Champion*. *Children of the Whales* is her eighth manga work.



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